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April 13, 2012 • No 234

## Fury erupts over council 'deceit' in housing plan numbers row

By **Marijke Cox**  
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

SWALE council has refused to apologise over claims it was "deceitful and misleading" in a consultation leaflet about its new Bearing Fruits strategy.

Chairman of Bapchild Parish Council, Andy Hudson, accused the local authority of failing to properly inform the public about the extent of house building up to 2031.

He said the new leaflet stated there would only be "4,000 new homes over the next 20 years" when the total overall figure is actually around 13,600, as set out in Swale council's core strategy.

The authority argued, however, that the leaflet related to the latest local plan document which focused on allocation of land and not the total number of homes planned for the borough.

But Mr Hudson accused the council

of being "deceitful" and said the consultation may be severely compromised.

He said: "The leaflet clearly states, and I quote: '4,000 new homes over the next 20 years' which is quite simply untruthful.

"I was informed by the planning department the final figure included in the core strategy was 13,644 and taking into account the 3,238 already constructed leaves some 10,406 homes to be allocated over the next 20 years, which averages out at 520 per annum for the period."

Mr Hudson said the leaflet made it impossible for people to understand.

"Those questioned said they felt this was deceitful and highly misleading and had I not made them aware of this they would not have known," he said.

"The council must at once re-issue all the leaflets and make a full public apology.

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## BLESSING OF THE ORCHARDS IS BACK

**HARVEST:** St George's celebrations will include blessing of the cherries **SEE INSIDE**

### GAMBLING

#### Bookies set for National

GRAND National fever is set to sweep the borough tomorrow as the nation's biggest horse race takes place. And despite the recession and squeeze on spending, bookmakers are betting on a bumper turnout as punters dig deep for what is traditionally their busiest day of the year. **PAGE 3**

### EXPLOSION

#### Navy assist in bomb blast

A WARTIME bomb had to be taken two miles off the coast of Sheerness to be blown up amid fears it could have shattered windows and spread alarm. And when the Navy carried out a controlled explosion water and smoke was fired more than 120-metres into the air. **PAGE 5**

### HISTORY

#### Village wants war memorial

UPCHURCH is looking to establish a new village war memorial to remember its fallen. A number of residents are keen to replace the existing plaques in the local church - which it has subsequently been discovered are incomplete - with a more prominent, central, site. **PAGE 9**

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## News

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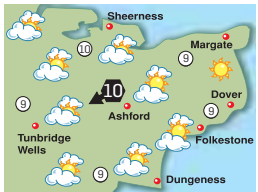
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## Weather



**TODAY:** Plenty of cloud through the day with showery outbreaks of rain, possibly heavy at times. A chilly gentle north-easterly wind. Max temp 8-11C (46-52F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)				
Dover	05.48	5.6	18.18	5.5
Margate	06.51	4.2	19.13	4.0
St Mary's	11.51	4.3	-	-

## WEEK AHEAD

	Max	Min
Sunday	Max 10C	Min 0C
Monday	Max 10C	Min 1C
Tuesday	Max 11C	Min 3C
Wednesday	Max 12C	Min 3C
Thursday	Max 13C	Min 5C
Friday	Max 14C	Min 5C

Information supplied by **MeteoGroup**

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## DEVELOPMENT

# Key moment in regeneration of town as work finally gets under way on paper mill site

By Marijke Cox

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TODAY marks a significant moment in the transformation of Sittingbourne and the start of a brighter future for the town centre.

Leader of Swale Borough Council, Andrew Bowles, Scott Hammond of Essential Land and David Darbyshire of Morrisons are due to put the first spade in the ground at the former paper mill site.

The milestone marks the beginning of the regeneration of the area, which will include both a supermarket and water-side park.

Essential Land, which owns the mill site, plans to create a mixed use development, with leisure facilities, a Morrisons supermarket, residential property, and retail units.

Cllr Bowles said: "Sittingbourne has been crying out for regeneration and I am really proud to be leading the borough through what will be a tremendously exciting period.

"We are already benefitting from the regeneration at Milton Creek Country Park and we are very close to signing a development agreement with the Spirit of Sittingbourne Consortium.

"That will trigger the physi-

cal regeneration of the town centre.

"This is real opportunity to embrace the investment in the area.

"It will mean jobs to come to the area, for residents to have greater opportunities, for the retail spend to stay in the borough to benefit the local economy more, and for children of the borough to grow up seeing the town grow around them.

"This journey will begin with the foundations being dug on the Mill Site.

"We could not be more excited."

Phase one of the regeneration involves the development

of Morrisons, parking and servicing areas and the provision of a petrol filling station.

Phase two is a proposed park which would separate the food store from the residential properties.

The first part of phase three is the development of a water-side park on the land formally used as a working wharf for the paper mill.

Outline planning permission for the remaining phases have been sought as part of the original application.

These include the development of a leisure building adjacent to retail units in Sittingbourne retail park; 150

**OPTIMISTIC:** Cllr Andrew Bowles is one of the three key figures to make the first cut in the ground at the paper mill

residential dwellings; and the provision of a heritage building to be sited at the entrance of the planned water-side park.

Today, the implementation of plans for the mixed use development gets under way.

To see the planning application see <http://bit.ly/IrGvDK>.



## PLANNING

## Contents of leaflet 'seriously undermined' inviting response

## Continued from front page

"I would also suggest that the deadline of the consultation is brought back to compensate for the lost time and that residents are allowed to withdraw any responses already made which might prejudice the results."

But cabinet member for planning, Cllr Gerry Lewin, said Mr Hudson had taken the quote out of the context of the leaflet, which he said makes it clear the 4,000 figure relates to the amount of land needed for the next stage of the council's local plan.

"The council refutes the allegation that the consultation leaflet or any information presented by the council has been 'untruthful,'" he said.

"The plan and its supporting research base have been posted on the council's website as part of our consultation

exercise to help understanding of the process. The leaflet is to alert people to the fact the information is there and very clearly brings the proposed new allocation areas to public attention.

"The breakdown of the figures are set out in table 4.3.3 on page 42 of the draft strategy.

"The plan period is 2006-2031, the total proposed housing over that period is 13,644 dwellings, however, 3,238 houses have already been built.

"A further 5,313 houses either already have planning permission or have been allocated by the current adopted local plan - these are retained as they have already been through a local plan public inquiry;

"Therefore, we will need sites for a further 5,093 dwellings and we are assuming that 1,450 houses will come

forward on windfall, in other words unanticipated, sites.

"And so we need to allocate additional sites for 3,643 more houses to plan for the period up to 2031, and it is these sites which are the subject of the current Bearing Fruits consultation.

"We do not therefore need to find new allocations for 10,000-plus houses as Mr Hudson claims. The 4,000 figure in the leaflet is a rounding up of the 3,643 figure quoted above, and was intended to simplify matters."

Cllr Lewin said the full quote in the leaflet reads: "We consulted you last year on the big issues and options facing the borough.

"We have now moved on to the next stage - allocating enough land for new jobs and 4,000 new homes over the next 20 years - and would like your

views on the draft proposals."

Leaflets were distributed to every home, inviting people to have a say in the consultation which is due to run until May 18.

Protect Kent, the county's branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, said while it commended the distribution of leaflets, the contents "seriously undermined" the effectiveness of inviting responses to the consultation.

Spokesman Jamie Weir said: "When I received this leaflet I was shocked to see it stating only 4,000 houses when I know that Swale Borough Council is actually planning around three times that number during the plan period."

The organisation said the council was being "disingenuous" and the lower number of houses stated in the leaflet could result in a low level of response.

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## GAMBLING

# Bookies ready for a Grand day of business as punters race in

By Chris Murphy

yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk

EVEN a return to the recession hasn't managed to stop the stampede of punters racing to the bookies to place a bet on this year's horse racing extravaganza, the Grand National.

With wallets under pressure like never before, bookmakers were concerned they would be hard hit this year. But the flood of £1-a-time hopefuls are still set to turn out, hoping for better odds than the lottery.

Even protests from campaign groups like Animal Aid will not be enough to put off those hoping to whip up a quick profit on Britain's favourite horse race.

Peter Abela has run Hilltop Racing at High Street, Minister, for 15 years. He said: "I hope the recession won't have any effect on us.

"Last year, the interest for the National was good, in fact it is always busy. My biggest concern is mobile phone apps, which allow people to put on bets anywhere.

"Most people who bet on the Grand National are what we call recreational gamblers that do it once a year with a fiver or £10, and they are always coming in, so hopefully there will be no difference to us."

Toni Ord from Coral, East Street, Sittingbourne, said: "Grand National day is the busiest day of the year by a mile, and a day we all look forward to.

"The atmosphere in the shop is different to any other day, with lots of customers making their only visit to a betting shop all year, so we make sure we offer as much help as possible to those who may not be familiar with placing a bet.

"We expect this day to defy the gloom of the recession, after all, having a flutter on the Grand National is part and parcel of British life."

A spokesman for Ladbrokes said: "The recession hasn't really had much of a say in recent years and given the excitement at Cheltenham



**GRAND:** The annual race stirs up emotions as one-off punters look to place bets, while animal rights groups call for an end to the 'horror'

this year, we think more people than ever will tune in and bet."

A spokesman for William Hill added: "We don't expect there to be a drop in levels as a result of the current climate. The industry saw healthy turnover during the recent Cheltenham Gold Cup, which is second only to the Grand National when it comes to betting, proving the recession hasn't affected the big race meetings."

But protest group Animal Aid is angry the National is made that much harder on the horses for the sake of excitement.

A spokesman said: "Every year around 400 horses are raced to death in Britain.

"At this event, the course is made deliberately difficult to add to the 'excitement' of the race and has claimed the lives of 36 horses over the last decade. Animal Aid would like to see the Grand National banned, for good.

## CRIME

## Keep your car locked and remove valuables to discourage car crime

MOTORISTS are being urged to take extra care with valuables in their cars as a 34-year-old awaits sentencing after pleading guilty to two counts of theft for swiping satellite navigation units.

John Crittenden, of Laburnum Place, Sittingbourne, appeared before Maidstone Magistrates' Court this week charged with the two offences. After admitting his guilt he has been released on bail and will be sentenced at a later date.

It follows two recent incidents in Faversham.

On April 5, a sat nav was pinched from a vehicle in Preston Street. A witness gave chase and he was caught and identified by another member of the public before he evaded their grasp and escaped.

Just three days later, another sat nav was stolen from a car in Church Road.

The crook was named by a member of the public and police arrested him and found him in possession of the stolen units. Both were recovered by police and returned to the owners.

The following day, Crittenden was hauled before the courts.

Detective Sergeant Scott Machin from Kent Police said: "As the weather gets warmer we often find that car and van owners leave windows ajar on unattended vehicles to let air circulate, and we would urge them not to.

"Opportunist thieves look out for this sort of lack of security and can strike

in a matter of seconds.

"We would advise all vehicle owners to fully secure their vehicles and take all valuables with them, this will help reduce the risk of becoming a victim of crime. In this case, thanks to vital help from members of the public, we have quickly located and arrested a man and put him before the courts."

Car security and cutting down on motor crime forms a key part of the police's Stay Safe spring campaign.

Key advice includes not leaving any valuables on display, wiping away the suction marks from your sat nav on the windscreen or dashboard and always removing the stereo unit if possible.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### ➔ Cops seek charities

POLICE are hunting for charities to make donations to following the sale of property seized during raids and operations.

Officers want to draw up a short-list of charities which can benefit by around £400 following the auctions. Swale Ch Insp Tony Henley said: "We would now like to hear from organisations in Sittingbourne, Faversham and Sheppey who would be able to put a donation to good use." Submissions deadline is April 25.

### ➔ History project appeal

ORGANISERS of an oral history project on Milton Creek are appealing for more people to send in their recollections and photographs on its past industrial life.

The stories will form the foundation for a number of community projects, including a DVD and learning packs for schools. A website for the project has been set up [www.miltoncreekmemories.co.uk](http://www.miltoncreekmemories.co.uk) which contains contact details on how to get involved and submit your memories.

### ➔ Flytipping figures drop

FLYTIPPING across the borough has been reduced for the fourth year in a row, according to the latest council figures.

Swale Borough Council also said 98 per cent of streets in the area were "acceptably clear of litter" – a five per cent improvement on the figures from three years ago.

David Simmons, from the the council's cabinet, said: "Residents tell us that flytipping and litter annoy them and so we try to target our limited resources at these issues." Any litter problems should be reported to 01795 417850.



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## EXPLOSION

# Offshore blast as Navy called out to destroy wartime bomb

By Chris Murphy

[yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk)

A SIX-FOOT long mine packed with explosives and potentially so dangerous it could have blown out the windows of nearby homes, was destroyed in a controlled blast last Sunday – but only after being taken two miles off the coast.

And when it was finally detonated it sent up a plume of smoke and water that was 120 metres high.

The device had been dredged up by a fishing boat off the coast of Sheerness. On closer inspection it was found to contain around 1,600 pounds of high explosive, making it lethal for passing shipping.

A Royal Navy team of bomb disposal experts were rushed to the scene and then took two days to finally make it safe with a controlled explosion.

Initially, the German parachute mine was expected to be destroyed last Saturday but technical issues put off the operation until Sunday.

The delicate operation involved the use of air-bags to cushion the ordnance, which

could then be towed to a safe distance off the coastline.

It had been close to a major electrical cable when initially discovered by the fishing boat, which had to then gingerly let it back down to the seabed without setting it off.

It was feared the blast radius could smash the windows of homes and cause alarm for anyone unaware of what was going on.

Eventually, it was moved six miles east of Sheerness and two miles away from the coast at Warden Point.

The four-man Navy team, part of Southern Diving Unit 2, was led by petty officer diver John O'Brien and specialises in removing old bombs.

Commanding officer Lieutenant Dan Herridge said after the seven hour task: "Due to the amount of high explosive in the mine, which posed a significant risk to public safety, it was necessary for the mine to be lifted and taken to a safe location to be dealt with."

"Because of the construction of them, they are all fully intact and ready to go. This was quite a large one. Potentially it could



**BANG:** The blast shot smoke and water 120m into the air

have gone off at any moment."

Just a week earlier, the same crash team removed the remnants of a four foot long German war-time V2 rocket which was found submerged in mudflats at the River Stour between Harwich, Essex, and Felixstowe, Suffolk.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## ➔ Spring craft fair event

LOCAL crafts will take centre stage in Lower Halstow this weekend at a special event.

A variety of stalls will be involved, boasting locally made items in the Spring Craft Fair being held at St Margaret's Church between 2-4pm this Saturday, April 14.

In addition, the Edith May Thames Barge will be in dock next door to the venue offering visitors the chance of a close-up look at one of the area's traditional sights.

## ➔ Dramatic sea rescue

LIFEBOAT crews rushed to a scene close to the wreck of the Montgomery after a motorboat suffered an engine fire.

Crews in the all weather lifecraft and rescue helicopter reached the boat to find the fire extinguished but two passengers needed treatment for minor burns and shock. They were taken to shore by the lifeboat and the craft towed to Queenborough. Ambulance crews met the boat and treated the passengers.

## ➔ Creative advice night

SWALE Arts Forum hosts an informal evening with creative business expert Cassy Fry later this month.

The project management consultant has worked on a variety of arts projects, conferences and festivals and is considered an expert in the area of creative businesses. The meeting is free to members - £5 for non-members. It takes place on April 24 between 7-9pm.

## TOURISM

# Police battling crime ready for island's busy summer season

AS major steps are taken to enhance Sheppey as a tourist destination, police are determined to clampdown on crime from caravans on the island.

With thousands of extra visitors set to descend this summer, police are calling on homeowners and business owners to be vigilant to help reduce the risk of becoming a victim of crime.

Inspector Noel Stanley from Kent Police said: "During the summer months the Isle of Sheppey is a popular place to visit. We want to make sure that all those who visit have a safe and fun time, and don't become victims of theft and we will be working hard to target anyone who we believe is involved in such crime."

"If anyone has any information about this sort of crime then they can give it to us in confidence and we will investigate and look to disrupt and deter offenders."

"We will continue to have officers on patrol, both in uniform and in plain clothes, to keep crime to a minimum and ensure everyone enjoys their visit to Sheppey."

As part of the force's Stay Safe spring campaign, officers in Swale will be targeting those who attempt to steal valuable items from caravans.

The call comes just a week after a new strategy was unveiled to boost visitor numbers and help revive the island's flagging economy.

While island chiefs admit it still has a way to go before rivaling Kent destinations such as Canterbury and Whitstable, they believe crowds from Kent and London will flock once more.

In Whitstable, these have proved hugely popular, with some changing hands for £40,000. Among the ideas being considered by Swale Borough Council to help the campaign is to erect beach huts around the coastline.

While the asking price for the council-built Sheppey buildings would start far lower, it is hoped such an introduction would help boost the island's attractiveness to visitors.

Residents and locals can contact their neighbourhood police team by calling 101. Information can also be provided anonymously to Kent Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

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ANNIVERSARY

# Life and death onboard the Titanic

AFTER a relaxing day, Kate Buss returned to her cabin still humming the hymns she and around 100 other passengers had earlier been singing in the dining room.

As she lay on her comfortable bunk bed reading a newspaper, she heard what she would later describe as sounding like "a skate on ice".

It would be a moment which would forever change her life. For the noise was the sound of doom for one of man's most majestic feats of engineering. It was the crunching of the iceberg which would sink the Titanic.

For Miss Buss, the journey was very much a passage to a new life; as she travelled to marry her fiancé in California.

The third of seven children, she was born in Shakespeare Road, Sittingbourne, on December 28, 1875 to her parents, James and Elizabeth. For the early part of her working life, she joined her brother, Percy James, at his grocers in Upper Halling.

After meeting the man she would eventually marry, Samuel Willis, of San Diego, she prepared to travel from her Kent home to the US, where the two would tie the knot.

Well known in the village, residents had fond memories of her pre-

One hundred years on from what remains one of the world's worst peacetime maritime disasters, our fascination with the Titanic remains. After a week of events to commemorate the centenary of its sinking on its debut voyage, and the loss of 1,514 lives in the icy waters of the Atlantic, we take a look at two victims. Both lived and worked in Sittingbourne and were well-known members of the community. Both had booked tickets on the liner's first journey with dreams of a new life – taking them to America and the opportunities of New York. **Marijke Cox** looks at their very different experiences of that terrible, fateful night.

## 6699

**As they reached the dock, she tried to talk her husband out of travelling. 'This ship is too big,' she said, it will never reach America**

**MRS ROUSE**, PASSENGER'S WIFE

paring for the journey towards her big day.

At 36, she was travelling alone. She bought her £13 ticket for a berth in a second class cabin from Hedley Peters – a local travel agent – and was waved farewell as the boat left Southampton to embark on its debut journey.

Her bunk bed was on E-deck and on the day the boat set sail she wrote a letter to her brother Percy on Titanic headed note-paper, where she expressed her fears about suffering sea sickness. It would prove to be the least of her worries.

After hearing the scraping of the iceberg which tore a gaping hole in the boat's hull, she joined fellow

passenger Marion Wright in taking to the deck to discover the cause of the noise and hear of the boat's scrape with the ice.

As they came to terms with what was quickly becoming an emerging disaster, passenger Douglas Norman told her to wrap up in warmer clothes before she was told to board a lifeboat along with Miss Wright.

While the tragedy unfolded, the lifeboat left the scene and was met by the Carpathia – the boat which responded to the emergency calls and collected much of the survivors.

She would be the last person to leave the lifeboat to board the boat due to her fear of heights and the

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the discreet background music did not impede the friendly buzz of conversation.

While running our eyes over the extensive menu, we nibbled on poppadoms served with tasty fresh chutneys. With more than enough choice before us and every dish sounding tempting, we enlisted the advice of our helpful waiter. The staff here are always available to provide details of fresh ingredients and explain more about the methods of cooking.

Starting with the banquet platter for two allowed us to sample a

choice of different flavours, and we very much enjoyed the samosa, tikka and fish kola. I would have been happy to eat my lamb pasanda main course forever – the creamy sauce was that delicious. Served with lemon rice, a delicately spiced chicken rezela and a tasty peshwari naan bread, our mains were so satisfying that we simply couldn't fit dessert in and instead finished a lovely evening with coffee. Dining at the Mint Leaf Lounge is definitely dining 'with class'.



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**DOOMED SHIP:** Titanic sank on her maiden voyage, 100 years ago, her bell rang as she hit the iceberg

prospect of climbing the rope ladder onto deck. But eventually she would complete her voyage – unlike so many others – and arrive in New York.

Upon her arrival she was taken to a hostel and assisted by an American reverend who had been contacted by the then vicar of Sittingbourne calling on him to help her.

After receiving funds from the American Red Cross, she eventually reached San Diego and just a month after the Titanic set sail, she married.

She would go on to enjoy a long life and have two children. Friends and relatives say she would never be able to talk about the Titanic disaster without becoming very emotional.

She died in July 1972 in Oregon, aged 96.

The events of that fateful night on April 14, 1912, would not be so kind to another man from Sittingbourne.

Richard Rouse, a 50-year-



old coal miner from New Road, was emigrating with his family to the US after losing his job in a coal strike.

Travelling in third class, on a ticket costing £8, records are fewer and far between, but it is understood he travelled alone ahead of his family in an effort to secure a job and somewhere for them to live first.

Legend has it that when his wife and daughter came to wave him off from Southampton, Mrs Rouse remarked: "This ship is too big, it will never reach America," and attempted to talk him out of travelling.

His body, if recovered, was never identified, and may well have been one of the many to find a final resting place at the bottom of the ocean.

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## REMEMBRANCE

# Villagers determined to honour their war dead with memorial

By Chris Murphy

[yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk)

RESIDENTS in the village of Upchurch are being urged to help create their first proper official war memorial.

Two locals have decided the village needed its own central location for remembering those who have fallen in the various conflicts over the generations.

Currently there are just two plaques inside St Mary's church – one each for those lost during each of the world wars.

So over a lunchtime drink, retired Fleet Street printer and now owner of the only bed and breakfast in Upchurch, Philip Newbery, and freelance photojournalist Mike Gunnill decided to do something about it.

They admit to being surprised there wasn't a proper civic war memorial for Upchurch.

And when they mentioned it to other locals the response was overwhelmingly positive.

To ensure the plaques contained a complete listing of those who died during the conflicts, they recruited the help of Ashford historian David Hughes.

He has, for the last 50 years, been involved in researching and helping Kent villages seek lists and names of their local war dead. Despite suffering recent illness Mr Hughes agreed to take on



**TRAGEDY:** Cherry pickers, pictured just before the 1914 war. Those marked with (x) never returned to Upchurch. Top, from left: Ted Muggeridge(x), Tim Osbourne, Peter Belts. From left: Fred Blewitt(x), Charlie Witherden, Bill Clarke(x), Wally Edmunds and Nuulty Wickenden

the project and fully research the village fallen.

Now a complete listing has been produced – revealing 16 new names for the dead of World War One, a further seven for World War Two and one from the Second Boer War.

Each of the 'new' 24 have now been researched, along with the 39 already listed.

The total research is not yet finished but is expected in about a month.

Once the complete list is known, members of the steering group, Mr Newbery, his son Louis Newbery, and Mr Gunnill are asking residents for their views and comments on a proposal to erect a civic war memorial at a site within the village.

Mr Newbery said: "This has to be a decision of the village whether we respect those who fought for our country and never returned to Upchurch.

"Like many I am amazed we haven't got a proper civic war memorial – something that could be seen on a daily basis in our village by residents and those passing through.

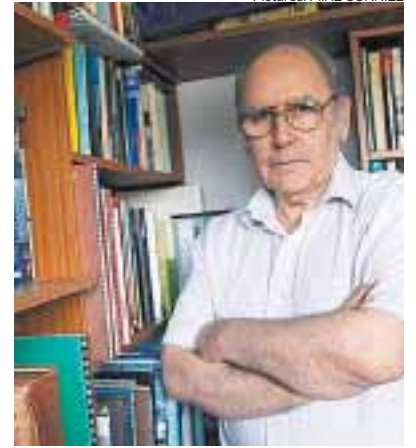
"The present memorial is sited inside the church and it is clear now, doesn't contain a full listing of village fallen.

"As a village we must correct this if possible, if only as a mark of respect."

Mr Newbery is asking for anyone with comments to write to him at Suffield House, The Street, Upchurch Kent ME9 7EU or send an email to [suffieldhouse@talktalk.net](mailto:suffieldhouse@talktalk.net).

A full listing of present and new names can be viewed at [www.upchurchmatters.co.uk](http://www.upchurchmatters.co.uk) the village community site.

Pictures: MIKE GUNNILL



**TIME TO REMEMBER:** David Hughes, top, has been researching the names of the village's war dead. At present they are only remembered on two incomplete plaques inside St Mary's church



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**VocaDemy are offering a FREE 60 minute lesson.**

*"Amber is absolutely loving lessons and her confidence has grown so much. She even stood up to a piano and sung a solo in a restaurant last week!" Sarah, mum of Amber Utley - age 9.*

*"Laura's confidence has really improved due to VocaDemy. She put herself forward for an audition for 'Joseph' and she got a lead role! Thank you - she loves VocaDemy." Sam Burge, mum of Laura Burge - age 11.*

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## ORGANISATIONS

## Henderson encourages more youngsters to join cadet corps

POLITICIAN Gordon Henderson is urging youngsters from across Sittingbourne and Sheppey to join the cadets.

The Conservative MP made his call following a visit to the Air Training Corps, based at The Westlands School in Sittingbourne.

During his visit, Mr Henderson was given a tour of their base, listened to a talk about what they do, and watched the cadets perform their drills and activities.

The Air Training Corps is a national youth organisation sponsored by the Royal Air Force in the UK.

The main aims are to encourage young people to take an interest in aviation and the Royal Air Force, to provide training and promote a spirit of adventure and leadership.

Flight Lieutenant Hannah Fulford RAF VR(T) said: "The cadets were delighted to be visited by Mr Henderson and were

pleased when he acknowledged their commitment and gave his support of the cadet organisations."

Mr Henderson said: "I would like to thank the Air Training Corps for inviting me along to one of their sessions to find out more about what they do.

"I encourage more young people to get involved with their local cadet branch, whether that is the Air Training Corps, the Sea Cadets or the Army Cadets."



**SALUTE:** Gordon Henderson joins ranks with air cadets during visit

## HIGHWAYS

## As predicted, road closure hits garden centre profits

By Chris Murphy

[yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:yourswale@kosmedia.co.uk)

OWNERS of a Newington garden centre were this week counting the cost of the closure of the High Street and said they were shedding "hysterical" tears after trade over the busy Easter period was decimated.

Carol Sage who runs Gardening World just off the A2, had warned before the gas main work got under way that it could have a devastating affect of her business.

And coupled with the disappointing weather which plagued the long bank holiday weekend, she said trade was severely hit.

She said: "It was absolutely dreadful for me. I am laughing about it now, but it is more of a hysterical laugh. I just hope it can be better organised if they do all that again.

"They had to do it while the children were off school because the volume of traffic would be down. But the sign posting they did was awful.

"Some [signs] just said road closed, and the police at the road blocks were not letting drivers through to us.

"The gas works should have happened last August. But farmers were worried about doing it so near their harvests so it was moved to the Easter weekend, which should have been my busiest time."

Elsewhere, the disappointing weather had an impact on some of the areas top tourist spots.

At Farming World, near Faversham, hopes of a repeat of the warm sunshine of two weeks ago failed to materialise – but bosses said trade remained brisk.

Owner Georgina Watson said: "We had a great week last week, with visitors figures for the seven days being pretty comparable with this time last year. Good Friday was one of the busiest days since we took over the running of the farm at the start of last year.

"It was a shame the weather deteriorated for the bank holiday as entrants to the Easter bonnet competition and to the farm generally were down on this day compared to previous years."

Jo James, the Kent Invicta Chamber chief executive, said: "Generally a little rain does encourage people to go out spending to cheer themselves up. If there was bright sunshine over the Easter weekend, people would have been sitting on the beach not spending any money at all.

"So perhaps we could do with some more rain – for lots of reasons as we are in the middle of a drought too."

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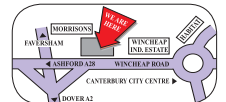
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## News

HISTORY

# Tradition is cherry on the top of our orchards

**By Chris Britcher**

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THESE fascinating images provide a window into a world dating back nearly 100 years to when the local cherry crop provided a vital injection into the area's economy.

And it was back in 1927 that a tradition began to bless the orchards and their crop.

It would see villagers gather in the cherry orchards each spring and offer prayers for a successful harvest.

Evolving from the ancient wassailing ceremonies – held in January to awaken apple orchards from the winter and encourage them to thrive – the events became key dates in the community's calendar.

Back then Newington was renowned for its many cherry orchards and their abundance of snowy white blossom which would dominate the local landscape.

So famous did it become that sightseers, artists and photog-



**FRUITFUL:** Some cherry pickers in a Newington orchard in 1915

raphers would flock from far and wide to witness the traditional spring sight.

However, the ceremony was discontinued in 1975 as imported cherries flooded in.

The cheaper competition would prove too much for the local industry.

Newington's cherry production reduced and as they

stopped turning a profit, so landowners felled the trees and wave upon wave of orchards began to disappear.

But since 2008 the blessing of the orchards has returned as it became part of the annual St George's weekend celebrations.

And it will be one of the highlights of this month's events

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**CELEBRATION:** Above, the choir and the Rev Arthur Lance, vicar of Newington, lead the congregation in a procession during the Blessing the Orchards ceremony circa 1948-50. Left: The church among the orchards, St Mary's, in 1930

singers from London and Kent.

Among the performers will be Bruce Springsteen and Pink Floyd tribute groups, The SpringStreet Band and Relics, both from Maidstone; London group Junkshop Radio, and also the talented Rochester Grammar School singer-songwriter Phoebe Peek, 15, who has a growing following on YouTube.

There's also the chance to win a new £31,500 Jaguar XF 2.2 luxury car, courtesy of Guy Salmon Jaguar Maidstone.

taking place on April 21-22.

The 1st Newington scout troop will parade through the village before the clergy, choir and congregation proceed from the church car park to a nearby orchard for the blessing ceremony at 10.30am on the Sunday.

They will then return to the church for the family service.

The village's weekend of celebrations begins the previous day with family entertainment on the primary school playing field from 11am to 9pm.

This will include an inter-village tug-of-war tournament, displays, fairground attractions and the first Newington Music Festival – a six-hour open air concert featuring bands and

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## Comment & Opinion

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OPINION

# Sending out all the right signals

The digital TV revolution is about to hit Kent. **Tony Gray** from Digital UK offers a switchover guide for any worried viewers still out there...

IN A night of savage winter storms a couple of years ago, I stood in a seaside village hall extolling the virtues of digital television.

From the back of the room, a white-haired old man looking every inch an Old Testament prophet called out: "I tell you it just won't bloody work! And even if it does, no-one will be able to understand it. You are murdering the best television service in the world."

Hundreds of village meetings later, I'm quietly relieved to say the Jeremiahs seem to have been proved wrong. The homicide squad haven't come knocking on my door yet.

This Wednesday, analogue TV signals will be turned off for viewers in north Kent who pick up their signal from the Crystal Palace transmitter in London.

Switchover in other parts of Kent starts on 30 May and runs throughout June.

By next Wednesday, 89 per

cent of the UK – more than 23 million homes – will have switched successfully from analogue to digital-only television.

It's the biggest change in British broadcasting in nearly half a century.

There are three simple, golden rules to make sure your TV screen doesn't go blank at digital switchover:

1. If you're still watching four or five channels on analogue TV, convert it with a digital box costing on average £25.
2. If you already watch Freeview (digital TV through an aerial), retune your equipment to avoid losing channels.
3. If you have satellite or cable TV, you don't need to do anything.

Virtually every analogue TV can be converted to digital and most homes will be fine with the aerial they have at the moment.

Switchover is happening so that high-power Freeview channels can be broadcast to almost every home, including free high-definition TV channels.

Quite rightly, everyone asks me how older and disabled people will survive.

A couple of weeks ago, I met a 92-year-old lady in one of our advice centres.

She sat down for a quick lesson in how to fit a digital box, went straight home to convert all the TVs in her house... then came back with home-made chocolate cupcakes to say thank you.

"I'm delighted I could do it," she said with a smile. "It was a great feeling to be able to tell my grandson I didn't need his help with new technology."

Cupcakes aside, there's lots of help and information available for everyone.

For those aged 75 or older, or with certain disabilities, the Switchover Help Scheme can



## 6699

**Three rules to making sure your TV screen doesn't go blank**

provide everything you need to switch one TV to digital and the scheme is still open. (Action with Communities in Rural Kent is looking for volunteers to help out with this work in small communities. Email [kathy.bugden@ruralkent.org.uk](mailto:kathy.bugden@ruralkent.org.uk) if you're interested.)

The digital switchover roadshows, with their bright pink vans, are coming soon to a shopping centre near you.

Every home in Kent will receive a free 20-page guide in the post. Pop-up captions and advertisements appear regularly on your TV screens.

If all that fails and you still haven't done anything by the time switchover arrives, your TV screen will go blank.

But I'm determined it won't come to that.

[To find out when and how the digital TV switchover works where you live, visit [www.digitaluk.co.uk](http://www.digitaluk.co.uk) or call 08456 50 50 50.]

## KOS COMMENT

Remember to plan space for the dead

IF THERE'S one thing in life that's inevitable, it's death, meaning the problem of finding new burial space is something that generations before us and generations after us have had and will have to tackle.

The fact that there is little burial space left in parts of Kent is nobody's fault, except, you could argue, that planning should have started earlier.

Then again, planning for a cemetery is not like planning a new house. There are strict rules to be followed, which means that any such plan can take years to be agreed.

Councils talk about the importance of housing for future generations, but a resting place for those departing this world is also greatly needed.

A horrendous loss

ONE hundred years ago this weekend, more than 1,500 people died in the sinking of the Titanic.

The disaster had a devastating impact across the globe, something that is still felt today.

This weekend, take a moment to remember all those who perished.

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from Canterbury



## IMAGES OF KENT

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## Sea change for drought issue

DOES the sinking of the Titanic publicity – featuring hot and cold, fresh and sea water – offer another possible solution to our present drought?

The water companies appear to give a low priority to delivery by stopping leaks and supplying the needs of our households, industry and farmers.

Such solutions as a water grid – piping water from Scotland – or bringing it south via our canal systems appear to offend water companies' territorial ethos and receive lower consideration than their bonuses.

Why don't the water companies follow the example set by the Titanic – no I am not advocating drowning their management – but simply laying an extra water pipe to each house (or at least schools, public facilities such as

swimming baths, town halls and major industry complexes) carrying sea water to take care of their loo requirements and other non-essential water activities.

New household industries could arrive as washing machines and other white goods are adapted or receive additives to make them sea water friendly – problem solved.

**Edward La Coste,  
Lamberhurst**

## Ukip offer the only solution

WE do not have a coalition government, what we have is a dictatorship of two very rich men who don't care one iota for England.

I have just seen a family whom I have known all my life leave to live elsewhere because this government has made them bankrupt.

What would they have to look forward to if they stayed: a means test after working all

their lives to ensure they had a comfortable retirement?

And they are not alone; you cannot fight a dictatorship.

I have voted for the Tory Party all my life, but they won't get my vote next time.

I am voting for Ukip, and I only hope all who love our country will vote for them also, they are the only party who seem to care about the land we fought for and are now losing without a fight.

The other parties have had their chance – now time for a drastic change.

**John R O'Neon, Folkestone**

## Vote against usual suspects

TAX reductions and changes benefiting businesses and the better-off are being 'mis-sold' on the basis they will create jobs and growth. They won't.

The old bust-to-boom solutions will no longer work.

Government austerity measures and unemployment

are taking money from ordinary shoppers' pockets, and reducing tax receipts, thereby contracting the economy, whereas, much of wealthier individuals and businesses increased net disposable income is being 'hoarded' or spent outside the UK.

Austerity measures are merely starting, with far worse to come. Government is relying on 'growth' to reduce its deficit. Even optimistically, this growth would be marginal, because it has ignored technology and population factors and wrongly assumes that 'corrections' will occur as previously.

As financial institutions that largely created our national and global economic crisis would say: "The past is not a guide to the future."

Parliament is responsible for: allowing this disaster to happen; the ineffectual measures being taken; and their effect on the lower paid, including pensioners.

Therefore, may I urge that we use the May local elections

to signal our disapproval and lack of confidence in the current government, by not voting for their candidates.

A low vote for those candidates would send that message.

Local candidates are not themselves responsible for our worsening national situation – but their political parties and national leaders are.

**John Dutton,  
Tunbridge Wells**

## Good work is there already

I WAS interested to read your recent article about the Big Society Co-operative and an interview with its founder Stephen Bell.

However, I was somewhat surprised to see Mr Bell's suggestion that the types of services this new organisation intends to offer to are not easily available elsewhere.

In fact the voluntary sector in Kent is already well served

by a network of support and development organisations, both volunteer centres and councils for voluntary service.

Your readers can find details of their local services on the Kent Centres of Voluntary Excellence website at [www.volunteercentreskent.org.uk/](http://www.volunteercentreskent.org.uk/).

Having worked in the voluntary sector for more than 25 years I am keenly aware of the need for good infrastructure services and so welcome any initiative which can strengthen the support available, especially in the current economic climate.

I do, however, hope Mr Bell and his new organisation will consult with, and complement, the existing services and not simply reinvent the wheel.

**Sue Tucker,  
development officer  
Canterbury District  
Voluntary Action and  
Support**

## ABC should lead the way

THE latest figures for youth unemployment in Ashford show yet another depressing increase with more than 650 of our 18 to 24-year-olds on Job Seekers Allowance – 7.6 per cent compared to the South East average of 5.7 per cent.

Meanwhile the number of those unemployed for more than 12 months has doubled since February last year.

While we, in the Ashford Independent Group, believe voluntary work experience programmes have a place, we believe more traditional apprenticeship schemes and extended work experience offer young unemployed the best route to gaining a long-term career. And it seems central government agrees by extending the minimum duration of new apprenticeships.

What is disappointing is that Ashford Borough Council has fallen woefully behind its neighbouring local authorities in supporting these excellent programmes.

With the numbers of unemployed 18-24 year olds rising across the borough, a strong Chamber of Commerce and local companies renowned for their community engagement we could, and should, be doing better.

Come on ABC, bite the bullet and take a lead.

**Tony Bartlett,  
Ashford Independent  
Association**

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Edited by **Adam Aiken**



## Vagaries of inheritance tax in black and white

**Q** MY wife and I understand we can avoid inheritance tax by gifting property now, as long as we then live for seven years. However, would capital gains tax be payable? We have made wills leaving enough to our daughters and grandchildren to use up the tax-exempt amount, with everything above that passing to whichever of us is the survivor. This means that on the second death, anything above the exempt slice will be taxed at 40pc. Is there any publication that would help us?

**A** AS you clearly know, anything passing from one spouse to the other escapes inheritance tax. There are other exemptions, too, including bequests to charity. And, of course, the first £325,000 of your estate is exempt. The advantage of making major gifts now is that after seven years those gifts will drop out of your estate completely and escape inheritance tax. Capital gains tax could be due if gifts consist of stocks and shares or similar assets that would be subject to gains tax if you sold them. But gains tax is 18pc or 28pc, depending on your overall tax position – well below the 40pc inheritance tax rate. And, if you gift money rather than taxable assets, there is no gains tax. The consumer organisation Which? publishes a useful book about ways of ensuring your family will benefit rather than the taxman. *Giving & Inheriting* costs £10.99 from the Which? order line (01903 828 557).

**Q** MY parents have offered to invest £500 in premium bonds for each of our two children, who are aged four and two. My husband and I are very grateful, but we are concerned about what might happen if, say, our daughter's bonds won £1m and our son's bonds won nothing. It would affect them for the rest of their lives. Is there any legally binding way to put the full £1,000 into bonds in their joint names?

**A** ACCORDING to the rules, premium bonds have to be in the name of one person. They cannot be held jointly. You can get round this, though. While your children are under 16, any prizes will be paid to you, so you could simply split the money between them. However, I suppose there is always the chance that 20 years from now, the child whose bond won a big prize might ask awkward questions, or even threaten to sue you for the "missing" half that had gone to the other child. So if your parents agree, my suggestion is to register the bonds in your name. You will get a certificate for £1,000 in bonds, and you can make a note on it to say that it belongs to your children. Then you can share any prizes between them without risking one child trying later to demand the lot.

**TONY HETHERINGTON**  
MONEY CLINIC



**Q** YOU wrote recently about the safety of company pension schemes. I left a company in 1986, with a pension frozen until my retirement, when it was found that pension funds were missing. Did the Pension Protection Fund that you mentioned only affect pension schemes after it was launched in 2005, and how quickly does it step in and start payments to pensioners? Is there any link between it and something called the Financial Assistance Scheme?

**A** THE Pension Protection Fund was set up by Parliament in 2004, to help people whose company pension scheme had gone bust. The key date is April 6, 2005, when it opened for business. The PPF can help only if the pension scheme got into trouble and started to be wound up on or after that date. The fund aims to step in within 28 days of problems arising and take over payments at 90pc-100pc of agreed pensions. The similar Financial Assistance Scheme is now run by the PPF, but can help members of pension schemes already in trouble before the PPF began.

**Q** PLEASE explain how advertisements can suggest putting £10,680 into a tax-free Isa scheme when the legal limit is only £5,340. Are the advertisements aimed at couples?

**A** THERE are two types of individual savings account (Isa). You can put £10,680 into a stocks and shares Isa, or up to £5,340 in a cash Isa and the balance into shares, as long as you do not exceed £10,680 in all.

**Q** I AM 18 and earn less than the tax threshold but I still have to pay national insurance. Why are the starting points not the same?

**A** THE tax and national insurance systems developed separately. The Government would like to merge them with the same thresholds, but this is not easy. People already retired have paid for their state pensions and now pay no more national insurance, so merging the two systems would mean pensioners paying extra tax for no extra benefit.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

## Paying hidden price for overseas transactions

Be careful how you use your debit card abroad, otherwise the charges can quickly mount up, says **ADAM AIKEN**

DEBIT cards are seen by many people as the easy way to pay for goods and services.

They are accepted in most shops, you can often use them to get cash-back when you make a purchase, you can use them online, and they are free to use.

Well, up to a point...

Debit cards might be free to use in the UK, but if you try to use one while you are abroad, you are likely to be stung with high charges, for both purchases and cash withdrawals.

Occasional usage is probably bearable for most people, but it won't take long for these charges to mount up if you use a card overseas regularly.

"Debit card charges for overseas transactions continue to be a major bugbear for consumers," said Andrew Hagger, a spokesman for Money.net.co.uk.

"While a debit card costs you nothing to use in the UK, in the majority of cases you will be charged for cash withdrawals and purchases when abroad.

"Many customers choose their current accounts based on the credit or debit interest rates, yet for people who travel abroad, a fee-free debit card could save them far more over the course of a year."

A few providers, such as Metro Bank, and Norwich and Peterborough Building Society, offer fee-free debit cards, but the vast majority of cards come with high charges. And most of these cards impose not one, but two charges every time they are used – a foreign loading fee plus a transaction or withdrawal fee.

If you were charged a loading fee of 2.75pc and a withdrawal fee of 2pc, you would be stung for £4.75 for making a withdrawal of £100 in foreign currency. And don't forget that banks and building societies also impose their own exchange rates on you when they convert your transactions into sterling.

Mr Hagger said: "If you look at a scenario in which a family is on holiday for two weeks in the sun, and they make five cash withdrawals of the equivalent of £100 and eight debit card purchases worth £50, they could easily be faced with a total charges bill of £45 or £50."

People would never entertain the idea of using a cash card in the UK that charged you so much for withdrawing our own money, but we seem to be more accepting of it when it comes to overseas use.

Louise Holmes, a spokesman for



### TIPS ON USING DEBT CARDS ABROAD

- 1) Debit cards are linked to current accounts, so check your account balance (and overdraft facility, if relevant) before you go.
- 2) Check the expiry date on your card. You don't want it running out while you're abroad.
- 3) Find out how much you will be charged for purchases and cash withdrawals. For example, it's possible that making a few, larger withdrawals will cost you less than making many smaller ones.
- 4) Let your bank or building society know you will be overseas. If you do not do this, you run the risk that your card provider sees foreign transactions as fraudulent, and blocks the card.

### DYNAMIC CURRENCY CONVERSION

WHETHER or not you have a debit card that charges you for using it abroad, take care not to fall for "dynamic currency conversion".

This is the idea that a retailer or a restaurateur offers you the chance to pay in either local currency or sterling. Although your initial thought might be to be paid in sterling, you'll almost certainly lose out.

"While this sounds a good idea in that you know how much you'll be charged, the problem is that it gives the retailer the opportunity to use an uncompetitive exchange rate, which could see you paying over the odds by 3pc or 4pc," said Andrew Hagger at Money.net.

In most all situations, complete the transaction in the local currency and let your bank make the conversion at its own exchange rate.

Moneyfacts.co.uk, said planning was key for travellers who did not have fee-free cards.

"Many of us are used to free banking, so it can be easy to assume we won't be charged for using our debit cards overseas," she said.

"This can be a costly mistake, however, with charges applied both for taking money out of a cash machine and for making purchases in stores abroad. Minimum charges will apply when withdrawing cash abroad, so it may be worth planning a few days ahead based on your plans for the holiday.

"In the midst of having fun, it can be difficult to keep a close eye on

spending and overseas charges can soon mount up."

Mr Hagger added: "It is better that you are aware of these charges before you jet off, rather than get a nasty shock when you get home, so contact your bank to find out what charges are applicable for both purchases and cash transactions when outside the UK.

"At least if you understand the overseas charges, you can adjust your spending pattern accordingly.

"For example, you don't want to be making cash withdrawals or purchases of £10 or £20 if you're going to be hit with charges of £1.50-plus each time."



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**Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village, Suffolk Coast**

**Self drive, 3 nights half board PLUS 99p Bar**  
**Quote MP5-KOS**  
**£99pp**

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Join us for a party where the name of the game is fun. We're reviving the 70s & 80s when Abba reigned supreme and their songs were on everyone's lips. We have organised a fabulous private party weekend featuring Mamma Mia the Movie and a top Abba Tribute Band playing live.

Pontin's Pakefield Holiday Village is situated on the Suffolk coast near Lowestoft. Enjoy a choice of bars and

eateries, an indoor swimming pool, snooker, pool, darts, short mat bowls, 9 hole pitch & putt, tennis court and more. The recently refurbished chalets are all single storey and situated on level ground, in landscaped grounds just a short stroll from the main facilities and car parks. All chalets have TV, tea/coffee making facilities, heating, double glazing, en suite bath/shower & toilet, bed linen & towels. Included meals are taken in the buffet-style cafeteria with views over the grounds to the sea.

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- Escorted throughout in Slovenia
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If you have a business story or any news you think we should be covering in this section, reporter **Nick Ames** would like to hear from you. You can phone him on **01303 817181**, or alternatively email **nick.ames@archant.co.uk**.

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# Business Week

Your business is our business

## Getting the high street moving

An obvious indicator of the health of the British economy is the high street. Online sales account for an ever-increasing chunk of the retail trade, but footfall in shops is vital to the business health of a community, with cash coming in at the sharp end of trade. Last month the Business Week team took a walk down Hythe high street to gauge how stores were coping in the face of economic uncertainty, while the Labour Party has been canvassing the same businesses and asking what they need to prosper. And in addition to all this, the Government has appointed retail guru Mary Portas to give her thoughts about possible solutions. **Nick Ames** investigates further how we can pull our high streets out of trouble.

**F**REE parking is the No 1 priority if businesses are to prosper in troubled Hythe high street, according to a survey by the Labour Party.

In a poll of 76 businesses conducted earlier this year, free parking emerged as almost twice as important as any other issue.

About half the businesses polled wanted at least two hours' free parking for shoppers in the high street, with just 2 per cent of shopkeepers suggesting that free parking should be for less than the one-hour period currently available.

In an article earlier this year, Business Week showed how declining footfall and the economic situation was putting many shops in the town under threat of closure.

Retailers called for any help they could get in attracting new custom – and parking was the main area identified as they said customers visiting supermarkets had to park too far away from smaller stores and were discouraged from casual visits.

Matt Hillyer, producer of the survey, said he was surprised at the result. "We didn't expect parking to rate as more important than business rates or advertising, but the response has been almost unanimous," he said.

"The shop-owners we spoke to thought it was the easiest and most effective way to bring people to Hythe and gave them an even platform on which to compete with the supermarkets. Two hours' free parking was viewed as the ideal length of time for customers to spend in town."

The survey coincides with Shepway District Council's draft parking strategy, which suggests reducing free on-street parking to 30 minutes in



### TOUGH NUT:

Many retailers and shop-owners in Hythe high street were adamant that more free parking would increase footfall and bring a change of fortune for businesses

high streets, in a bid to persuade drivers to park in under-used car parks.

"The council should listen to the businesses in the high streets and increase the time limits to allow people to shop for longer," said Peter Wallace, secretary of the local Labour group.

"We've heard from the shops, particularly the restaurants, cafés and hairdressers, that they want at least two hours' free parking for their customers, because one hour isn't enough."

"If the council make those changes, we predict Shepway could attract thousands more customers to our towns per year, as well as bringing countless other benefits."

Across the town centre, shop-owners have reported that takings at the till are down dramatically, footfall is declining and rents are increasing – all factors that they say could see some stores closing their doors by the end of the year.



Typical problems are those experienced by Alan Fairbairn and his wife Susan, who run Trouvailles antiques store. They say that takings are down two-thirds from their peak and rent has increased by half.

"We took over a 16-year lease on the shop," said Mr Fairbairn. "There is provision for an increase in rent in the contract, but nothing for a cut when takings are down – as they are."

Mrs Fairbairn explained how the business had suffered over recent years.

"There was a time when the value of antiques was really high," she said. "But the market has decreased in the last few years. We have a lot of stock which we bought during the boom time but are having to sell at a loss."

"People wanted the feel-good factor of buying as little as 18 months ago, but now they just aren't."

## Could £10 market stalls point more prosperous way ahead?

A BUSINESS survey has revealed that in 2011 the larger high-street chains closed an average of 14 stores a day across Britain.

So in this difficult retail market, chartered-accountancy group ICAEW is encouraging entrepreneurs to take advantage of a Government-backed scheme offering market stalls for £10 over a fortnight this summer.

For those starting a new business or wishing to extend an existing venture, it says the Love Your Local Market campaign offers a low-cost, low-risk way to test a new product.

The market-stall initiative will run from Saturday, June 23, to Sunday, July 8, and is the first official response to the Portas Review – an independent review of the English high street undertaken by Mary Portas, a leading

marketing consultant appointed by Prime Minister David Cameron.

Ashford, hit badly by store closures, is applying to be one of 12 'Portas Pilots' – towns that will share a £1 million Government handout in a bid to turn around their high streets.

Ms Portas has called for a National Market Day to promote markets and allow budding shopkeepers to try their hand at operating a low-cost retail business.

The review also urged that unnecessary

### HELPING HAND:

Mary Portas used by the Government

regulations be removed to make it easier for people to become market-traders.

Fay Webster, ICAEW's South East regional director, said: "Market trading allows entrepreneurs to be flexible and take their trade to customers without being tied into expensive long-term property leases."

"It is a great way to test their offering in a low-cost, risk-free environment."

"The old model of starting in retail with an immediate commitment to a shop in a town centre has been challenged by online and out-of-town shopping. New retailers have to be

convinced that there is a sufficient demand for their product before committing to a lease."

The Love Your Local Market scheme provides a great platform to get a new business idea off the ground without incorporating unnecessary costs.

Traders will get to interact with the public and fellow traders and build a good network of customers and colleagues and a sense of community.

"The scheme gives budding retailers the opportunity and space to develop and flourish in a friendly, relaxed environment," said Webster.

"Market stalls, such as Christmas markets, have always succeeded in bringing people together to sell, share and socialise and are a fantastic testing ground for entrepreneurs introducing a new product."



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# Telecare has its finger on the pulse of heart patients way out west

By Nick Ames

[nick.ames@archant.co.uk](mailto:nick.ames@archant.co.uk)

HEALTHCARE specialist Red Alert Telecare, based in Ashford, has landed a contract to support heart-disease patients across Dorset.

The company will be installing and maintaining monitoring devices that will allow hundreds of people to remain living safely and independently at home.

By carrying out their own daily checks on a number of vital health indicators and forwarding the data to their GP or health specialist, the 500 coronary-care patients will be able to live normal lives, safe in the knowledge that any issues will be flagged up by the technology and will alert medical help.

Two years ago, Red Alert Telecare played a leading role in a Department of Health trial – called a whole-systems demonstrator – that proved the merits of the life-changing technology, known as 'telehealth'.

Now the company is working with leading provider Telehealth Solutions to install its technology in homes across the West Country county on behalf of NHS Dorset, Bournemouth and Poole.

The equipment, which is freely available to

those with long-term chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, allows people to monitor their blood pressure, blood oxygen level, weight and heart rate and record the results using a simple, menu-driven touch-screen tablet computer.

It also asks a number of routine questions about how the patient is feeling.

"This is remarkable technology and it can make a huge difference to patients who would otherwise have to visit outpatients for regular checks or contact their GP if they thought something might be wrong," said Red Alert Telecare managing director Clive Gawler.

"It has been clearly demonstrated that this type of equipment reduces emergency admissions to hospital and, more importantly, has saved lives by drawing attention to potentially fatal conditions."

"We are delighted to be working with Red Alert on this important project," said Tim Shaw, operations director at Telehealth Solutions.

"Installing and maintaining this technology is not just specialised but plays a vital part in ensuring that the systems work correctly."

When the data has been collected, the patient sends it to a central computer using a roaming mobile-phone connection and it is compared against that person's normal parameters.



Gawler said: "If anything is flagged up as being unusual, the system alerts the right medical person, who can then take action."

"It allows the patient to become more involved in managing their own condition and prevents them undertaking what might be a long or difficult journey for a check-up that just proves nothing has changed."

"As well as giving people back their independence, telehealth has the potential to save the health service millions of pounds in unnecessary appointments and emergency admissions, as well as freeing up professionals' time and hospital beds."

## Aussie flat-packing is good business sense

HYTHE company Gopak is investing for the future and flying the flag for Britain as it faces competition in the market from Chinese imports.

The business, which produces lightweight folding tables for customers including schools, community halls and churches, has recently expanded its operations after acquiring a licence to produce a product designed in Australia.



"The last four years

have been very challenging," said managing director Andrew Fieldwick, above.

"But when the Australian opportunity came along, we had to take it. We worked out how to flat-pack the design and so went ahead with investing in expanded premises.

"The investment was at a difficult time, but we took a long-term view so that when the market does pick up we will be in a position to capitalise.

"These are the sort of decisions you cannot afford to get wrong. It was a brave move, but the company has a strong financial base, so we were able to do it without borrowing."

Competition in the marketplace has also been a factor in Gopak's decision.

Diane Ponting, sales and marketing director, said: "Buying from importers may give you just a standard design, but we have thousands of different ones which can accommodate any need or requirement."

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## Training, courses and careers

### 'We need women' say building chiefs

CONSTRUCTION companies in Kent and the South East should take steps to attract more females to meet the industry's need to find top talent, according to a survey conducted on the CITB-ConstructionSkills website.

The survey showed that most respondents (60 per cent) felt it was important for employers to bring more females into construction in order to 'attract more talented individuals' (47.5 per cent) and to ensure the workforce better reflected society's demographics (13 per cent).

For those who thought it was not important for industry to do more to attract women (nine per cent), most suggested that activity in this area was 'just political correctness'.

Sara Pearce, sector strategy manager for CITB-ConstructionSkills South East said: "It's really encouraging to see the comments and enthusiasm around increasing the number of women in the industry – it's hugely important to have the widest possible talent pool to draw from irrespective of gender, race, sexual orientation, ethnicity or faith."

"We need quality candidates coming into the construction industry in the South East, and there are already many examples of women doing really well, but we still need to challenge some prevailing misconceptions that are damaging to our efforts to attract the best talent."

### Minister's rules for young apprentices

APPRENTICESHIPS will last for a minimum of 12 months guaranteeing improvements in training and workplace learning, skills minister John Hayes has announced.

The new standards will come into force for all age groups from August, subject to consultation with providers and employers.

For those aged 19 and over apprenticeships will last between one to four years unless prior learning or attainment has been recorded. Apprenticeships for 16-18 year olds will last a minimum of 12 months without exception.

Mr Hayes said: "The momentum we have created by building the apprenticeship brand has brought about unprecedented success for the apprenticeship programme."

"The majority of apprenticeships are the gold standard in vocational training. They boost individuals' life chances and build the skills that drive growth. They also provide a great return on public money. This has been independently recognised with the National Audit Office finding that apprenticeships generate £18 for the economy for every £1 spent."

"But we must be relentless in our drive to ensure all apprenticeships are as good as the best."

# College head defends apprenticeship schemes

MIDKENT College acting principal Sue McLeod has come out in defence of apprenticeships following criticism of the training schemes by the BBC's flagship current affairs show Panorama.

The BBC One show last week featured examples of bad practice in the further education sector, and criticised some colleges' use of subcontractors in delivering work-based training.

The programme claimed there was little scrutiny over how public money was being spent on the schemes.

However, Ms McLeod offered a strong defence of apprenticeships, and was keen to stress that the actions of a minority should not undermine the true value and worth of training programmes.

She said: "Apprenticeships are an important way of preparing young people for employment and are vital to the Government's strategy for economic recovery."

"At a time when youth unemployment is high, we should be doing all we can to champion a scheme that for many years has linked up local and national firms with hard-working trainees for the benefit of everyone involved."

"MidKent College is approved by the Skills Funding Agency to offer both apprenticeships and advanced apprenticeships, and it is in our best interests to provide the best education possible for those who rely on us to help them into employment."

"In respect to subcontractors – which the Government supports the use of – we only use those who meet our high expectations."

Earlier this year nine MidKent College apprentices lost their jobs when the Sheerness-based metalwork firm Thames-steel went bust.

But thanks to the efforts of staff in the college's business development unit and JobShop, all have now found alternative employment to enable them to complete their training.

The speed in which they found new jobs, said Ms McLeod, was largely due to the quality of training they had already received.

She added: "Our response to the Thames-steel situation is evidence of how we have the best interests of our students at heart."

"Their education and welfare is top of our list of priorities, and always will be."

"Colleges like ours are not-for-profit organisations which serve our communities for the long term. It is not in our interests to provide poor quality education."

A taskforce was been set up by Kent County Council after the closure of the Thames-steel plant in Sheerness in January and the loss of 350 jobs.

The steel firm went into administration last month with 350 of the 400 staff being told they were being made redundant.

MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey Gordon Henderson has been trying to stop equipment at the plant from being sold abroad.



ON THE JOB TRAINING: 'Apprenticeships are vital for the economic recovery'

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## Schools & education

### It's full steam ahead for Hornby's train set model-making projects

HORNBY Hobbies has teamed up with Kent County Council to give primary schools the chance to be in the driving seat and design their own train set landscapes.

The Margate-based company has sponsored the initiative to the tune of more than £7,000.

While creating their individual models, pupils have been learning how to plan a project, draw to scale, build the base-board, learn how electricity works, design the layout of the

track, connect up circuits and motors, build scale buildings, and how trains shunt engines and wagons.

KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter said: "This is a new venture for us and we are grateful to Hornby for providing the equipment to make it happen.

"The response from schools just emphasises the enthusiasm of teachers to find new ways of motivating young people to learn new skills while having fun."

Each school, with the help of KCC Local members, will be provided with a train and track to create a portable shelf-style layout on a board 75cm x 200cm. Each school can develop its own ideas for the model and can add trains, track, countryside and infrastructure to the scene.

More than 100 schools have applied for the 50 train sets available. All the sets have been distributed and schools are beginning the model-making project.

### Designers get their stripes with Radio 4 slimming clothes test

FASHION design students at the University for the Creative Arts (UCA) Rochester have been working with Radio 4 to settle the age-old question of whether stripes really can make you look thinner.

Val Watham, a finalist on Radio 4's So You Want to Be a Scientist, devised an experiment to test whether stripes affect people's perception of size. She then turned to UCA for help.

A team of volunteers from the fashion design course made up a range of shirts and dresses with the stripes positioned horizontally and vertically. Students were then filmed wearing each of the dresses and shirts, plus a plain black alternative. Visitors to the BBC Science tent at Edinburgh Science Festival in April will be asked to watch the videos and estimate what size the model is in each of the clips.

To make sure the study is scientifically valid, Val has also been working with psychologist Dr Peter Thompson from the University of York.

He is an expert in visual perception and has helped to design the test that will be carried out at Edinburgh Science Festival.

Val said: "Working with UCA has been a great



**SHAPING UP:** Students made the striped clothes

experience – the students have been fantastic. Not only have they made up the garments, but they also volunteered to act as models.

"I hope that the data we gather from this experiment will shed more light on the way different patterns affect our perception of size."

Thomas Williams, one of the first year fashion design students who volunteered to make the garments, said: "I was really excited at having the opportunity to work with the BBC."

Fellow student Luq Ali added: "I own loads of stripy clothes and I definitely do think they have an impact on perception of size. I can't wait until the findings are revealed (in June)."

### Medal success for college students' union in build up to Olympic Games

CANTERBURY College Students' Union has collected an award for its Olympian efforts.

The SU won a bronze medal for Living the Olympic Values at the Podium Awards 2012, beating more than 200 colleges and universities.

The judges were impressed with the college's delivery of the Olympic values – courage, determination, equality, excellence, friendship, inspiration, and respect.

It is the latest honour to be bestowed on Canterbury College's

SU, which recently won a NUS Award for a record-breaking fourth consecutive year.

Student's Union president Tony Payne said: "We have been working hard to get students inspired about the London 2012 Games for the past four years, so it's great to win a Podium Award.

"This is the fifth year the college has been nominated for an award based on the quality of our extra-curricular activities

and it's a real testament to the commitment of the students here.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing the Olympic Park and taking students to some of the events."

The Podium Awards recognise the role colleges and universities play in delivering the London 2012 Games. Canterbury College Student's Union will receive its award at a black-tie event in London next month.

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**Paul Parish 01843 234555 x 63316**

For job description and application form please contact:  
**Jo Edwards**  
East Kent Medical Services Ltd  
The Spencer Wing, QEOM Hospital  
Ramsgate Road, Margate  
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Telephone: 01843 234556  
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### Alzheimer's & Dementia SUPPORT SERVICES

Registered Charity Number 1024385

Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Services is a registered charity based in Northfleet, which supports people with dementia and their carers in Dartford, Gravesham & Swanley.

We have been awarded funding for three new projects and we are recruiting for the following posts:

**Dementia Café Facilitator - 14 hours per week - £6,930 per annum - Fixed contract to 31/3/2014**

There are three dementia cafés presently running monthly in Dartford, Gravesend & Swanley. This post will facilitate these cafés and set up another two cafés in the local area. Dementia Cafés allow open discussion of dementia and its consequences in an informal, social environment in the presence of, and supported by, peers. The person appointed will organise, and facilitate, the cafés which provide a mix of speakers, entertainment and socialising.

**Peer Support Facilitator - 18 hours per week - £8,907 per annum - Fixed contract to 31/3/2014**

This post will set up two Dementia Peer support groups, one in Dartford & one in Gravesham. The groups will run twice a month in each venue. The aim of the role will be to facilitate structured group sessions to discuss their diagnosis of dementia and its consequences in an informal environment in the presence of, and supported by, their peers. The aim is to learn from each other about key areas of concern, experienced symptoms & coping mechanisms.

**Dementia Buddy Service - 26 hours per week - £12,866 per annum - Fixed Contract to 31/3/2013**

This post will set up, and run, a new service at Darent Valley Hospital. This successful applicant will recruit, train & support volunteers to assist patients with dementia in the hospital by providing social interaction, cognitive stimulation and encouragement with eating & drinking.

All posts are subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau (CRB) check & references. It is expected that applicants will have significant experience of working with people with dementia in a professional setting, managing projects as well as experience of working with volunteers.

For application forms and further information, please call **01474 533990** or email [adminadss@btconnect.com](mailto:adminadss@btconnect.com)

Closing date for completed applications is 27th April, 2012.

Interviews will take place in the week commencing 7th May 2012.



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KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity No: 292824

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Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 27th April 2012

Interviews will be held on 16th May 2012

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent ME2 3SP (Tel: 01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

## PLANNING

### THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL Town and Country Planning Act Notice of Applications

**MA/12/0250/S** - CHARTER HOUSE, CHART CORNER, CHART SUTTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3SB - Erection of fencing. **Reason: 1**

**MA/12/0430/N** - 261, WILLINGTON STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 8EP - Loft conversion involving extension of hipped roof to form half-hip on north side and installation of a front dormer. **Reason: 1**

**MA/12/0438/S** - THE WEAVERS, GREEN LANE, LANGLEY, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3JW - Erection of a two storey extension to existing bungalow for extra family accommodation. **Reason: 1**

**MA/12/0458/S** - LAND AT, WATER LANE, HUNTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0SG - Erection of an open-fronted four bay agricultural pole barn. **Reason: 1**

**MA/12/0508/S** - 12, LOWER FANT ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8EA - Retention of ground floor rear conservatory and erection of two storey side extension. **Reason: 1**

**MA/12/0513/N** - LEEDS CASTLE, ASHFORD ROAD, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1PL - Re-erection of former picnic shelter building in new location. **Reason: 1**

**MA/12/0522/S** - BRIDGE HOUSE, HIGH STREET, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6HS - An application for listed building consent for the installation of a wood burning stove and chimney flue liner. **Reason: 3**

**MA/12/0548/S** - THE WHITE BARN, GREEN LANE, YALDING, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9RB - Erection of a single storey extension to the south west elevation, alterations to fenestration and installation of flues, plus extension to bungalow. **Reason: 1**

**MA/12/0549/S** - THE WHITE BARN, GREEN LANE, YALDING, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9RB - Application for listed building consent for single storey extension to south west elevation, alterations to fenestration, installation of flues and internal alterations. **Reason: 3**

**MA/12/0550/S** - SOMERFIELD HOUSE, 59, LONDON ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 8JH - An application for a new planning permission to replace extant permission MA/08/1665 (Change of use and conversion to 12 residential flats) in order to extend the time limit for implementation. **Reason: 1, 6**

#### Reasons for advertisement key:

1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.

3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.

6 - Application is Major Development.



Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **29th April 2012**, quoting the application number.

**Rob Jarman**, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 15th April 2012

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### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

#### NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

**KCC/CA/0096/2012 - Proposed development at  
Oldridge Wood Lagoons, Swanton Lane, Off  
Canterbury Road, Littlebourne, Canterbury, Kent,  
CT3 4AX.**

Starnes (Canterbury) Ltd is applying to Kent County Council (as the Waste Planning Authority) for planning permission for the infilling of open lagoons formerly used for the disposal of tannery wastes.

#### PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

**KCC/CA/0100/2012 - Proposed development at St  
Alphege CE Infant School, Oxford Street,  
Whitstable, Kent, CT5 1DA.**

KCC Property & Infrastructure Support is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for the replacement of 16 no. white painted, soft wood timber vertical sliding sash windows with white finish aluminium facing units to match the existing fenestration. The proposed development is within the Whitstable Town Conservation Area and is likely to affect its character and/or appearance, and may also affect the setting of a listed building.

You may view these applications at Canterbury City Council, Canterbury Main Office, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW.

#### NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13(3) OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

**KCC/SH/0381/2011 - Proposed development at  
Dungeness Borrow Pit, Dungeness, Romney Marsh,  
Kent, TN29 9NA.**

EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd and the Environment Agency has submitted further environmental information under regulation (22) of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011 in support of application reference KCC/SH/0381/2011 for shingle recycling for the purpose of flood defence. The original application was accompanied by an environmental statement. The proposed development is within the Dungeness Conservation Area and is likely to affect its character and/or appearance. The proposed development also affects a public right of way.

You may view copies of the further information at Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2QY or at the One Stop Service Lydd, Guildhall, Lydd, Kent TN29 9AJ.

Members of the public may obtain copies of the environmental statement from Halcrow Group, Burdorp Park, Swindon, SN4 0QD Tel: 01793 816360 so long as stocks last, at a reasonable charge.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at [www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications](http://www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications) or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to [planning.applications@kent.gov.uk](mailto:planning.applications@kent.gov.uk) or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough/District Council website.

Sharon Thompson  
Head of Planning  
Applications Group  
Kent County Council  
Dated: 15 April 2012



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PLANNING



Planning applications

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995  
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990  
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990  
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

- CA/12/00111/FUL: Erasmus House and Old Sessions House, Canterbury Christ Church University, Canterbury Installation of roof mounted solar panels. Applicant: Canterbury Christ Church University Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00112/FUL: Rochester House, Canterbury Christ Church University, St Georges Place, Canterbury, CT1 1UT Installation of roof mounted solar panels. Applicant: Canterbury Christ Church University Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00189/FUL: 37 Nelson Road, Whitstable, CT5 1EA Replacement front door. Applicant: Mr Gawler Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00243/ADV: 43-45 St George's Place, Canterbury, CT1 1UP Installation of internally illuminated fascia sign to front and side elevation. Applicant: Odeon Cinema Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00296/FUL: Thorley Taverns, The Bandstand, Central Parade, Herne Bay, CT6 5JN Addition of take-away (Use Class A5) to existing mixed use drinking establishment and cafe/restaurant (Use Classes A4 and A3) and associated new servery to inner side of west wing. Applicant: Mr R Ali Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00315/FUL: 56 Heaton Road, Canterbury, CT1 3PY Single-storey side extension. Applicant: Mrs G Freeman Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00358/FUL: 34 Island Wall, Whitstable, CT5 1EP Demolition of two-storey rear extension and erection of replacement two-storey extension with dormer window and accommodation in roofspace, (Revised Scheme). Applicant: Mrs Nearn Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00411/FUL: Wickham Lodge, Wickham Court Lane, Wickhambreau, CT3 1RZ Orangery to rear elevation. Applicant: Mr and Mrs Devereux Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00434/FUL: 12 St Dunstons Court, London Road, Canterbury, CT2 8LU Replacement windows and door. Applicant: Mr Chambers Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00545/FUL: Block A, St Andrew's Close, Canterbury Erection of a four-storey building comprising 12 residential apartments with associated undercroft parking and external works. Applicant: Jenner (Contractors) Ltd and Hyde Housing Association Reason: Major development.
- CA/12/00474/NAR: Land adjacent to Fieldway House, Field Way, Sturry, CT2 0BH Variation of condition 11 of planning permission CA/10/1020/FUL relating to the code for sustainable homes. Applicant: Jacob Builders Ltd Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00482/FUL: 26A Stour Street, Canterbury, CT1 2NZ Change of use from office (Use Class B1) to non-residential complementary health clinic (Use Class D1). Applicant: Canterbury Acupuncture Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00486/FUL: 12/13 Sun Street, Canterbury, CT1 2HX Change of use of ground-floor to restaurant/cafe (Use Class A3) in association with existing first-floor restaurant/cafe use. Applicant: K M Catering Ltd Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00487/FUL: 2 South Lodge Close, Whitstable, CT5 2AD Rebuilding of part of existing house including alterations to listed wall. Applicant: Mr and Mrs Fanciulli Reason: Conservation area.
- CA/12/00488/LB: 2 South Lodge Close, Whitstable, CT5 2AD Rebuilding of part of existing house including alterations to listed wall. Applicant: Mr and Mrs Fanciulli Reason: Work to a listed building.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to [development.control@canterbury.gov.uk](mailto:development.control@canterbury.gov.uk) to arrive on or before Monday 7 May 2012.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: [www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc](http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc)

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration  
Friday 13 April 2012

Town and Country Planning Acts

- The Council is required to give notice of the following applications
- 12/00917/HOUSE The Barn Haymans Hill, Horsmonden  
- Alterations to patio and garden areas; Fenestration alterations (LB)
- 12/00918/LBC The Barn Haymans Hill, Horsmonden  
- Listed Building Consent - Alterations to patio and garden areas; Fenestration alterations (LB)
- 12/00619/HOUSE 10 Brewer Street Lamberhurst, Lamberhurst  
- Installation of P.V. solar panels on roof to front elevation (CA)
- 12/00248/HOUSE Wingrove Cottage Queen Street, Paddock Wood  
- Pitched roof side and rear extensions; New parking area and vehicular access onto Lucks Lane (LB)
- 12/00942/FUL The Pantiles Hotel The Pantiles, Pantiles & St Marks  
- Remove existing internal brick/steel piers and add decorative columns, reduce raised floor level by 300mm (shaped area) to allow disabled access, alter internal layout to include disabled wc on lower ground floor level. Alter Pantiles elevation to painted hardwood sliding folding doors (LB) (CA)
- 12/00943/LBC The Pantiles Hotel The Pantiles, Pantiles & St Marks  
- Listed building consent - Remove existing internal brick/steel piers and add decorative columns, reduce raised floor level by 300mm (shaped area) to allow disabled access, alter internal layout to include disabled wc on lower ground floor level. Alter Pantiles elevation to painted hardwood sliding folding doors (LB)
- 12/00836/FUL Abbeyfield Society Ltd Abbeyfield House, Park  
- Demolition of existing garage and construction of new garage with residents' accommodation on two floor levels above with first floor windows to front and garden (north west and south east) elevations and second floor window to side (south west) second floor dormer to front (north west) elevation and second floor balcony to garden and side (south east and south west) elevations (CA)
- 12/00875/HOUSE Boxhurst Oast Boxhurst, Sandhurst  
- Alterations and repositioning of main access doorway, erection of enclosure walls and erection of garage (LB)
- 12/00879/LBC Boxhurst Oast Boxhurst, Sandhurst  
- Listed Building Consent - Alterations and repositioning of main access doorway, erection of enclosure walls and erection of garage (LB)
- 12/00880/HOUSE Sponden Old Hall Sponden Lane, Sandhurst  
- Single storey rear extension as garden room to replace conservatory and reduction of chimney stack (LB)
- 12/00881/LBC Sponden Old Hall Sponden Lane, Sandhurst  
- Listed building consent - single storey rear extension as garden room to replace conservatory and reduction of chimney stack (LB)
- 12/00908/FULMJ Owl House, Trenley Farm, Sissinghurst C/O Cranbrook Parish  
- Erection of two stables with ancillary storage and associated grazing land. Extension of existing garage to provide haystore. Addition of log store to existing dwelling. Realignment of access drive (MAJOR) (LB)
- 12/00913/LBC Owl House, Trenley Farm, Sissinghurst C/O Cranbrook Parish  
- Listed Building Consent - Erection of two stables with ancillary storage and associated grazing land; Extension of existing garage to provide haystore; Addition of log store to existing dwelling; Realignment of access drive (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

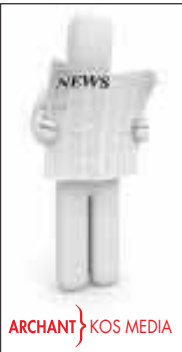
You may view these applications on our website ([www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk](http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk)), at The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells.

We accept comments online, by email to [planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk) or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe  
Head of Planning Services  
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 14 April 2012



Public Notice

8 April 2012



Notice under Section 122(2A) Local Government Act 1972

Proposed appropriation of land at Kingsmead from open space to planning purposes

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Canterbury City Council intends to appropriate open space land at Kingsmead Canterbury, for planning purposes under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). The area of land to be appropriated is described in the Schedule to this notice.

Members of the public who wish comment or object to the proposal should send their comments or objections to Mark Ellender, Legal and Democratic Services, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury Kent CT1 1YW in writing by 22 April 2012.

A plan identifying the land which the council is considering appropriating to planning purposes can be viewed at the council offices during normal opening hours.

SCHEDULE

1.912 hectares of land comprising of land adjoining Kingsmead Road, Broad Oak Road, Stonebridge Road and Ambleside Place.

Colin Carmichael, Chief Executive  
Canterbury City Council  
Military Road  
Canterbury CT1 1YW



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990  
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 30th APRIL 2012

SW/11/1371:

Adding traditional 6 Kentish wooden weather board to exterior of non listed property weather board painted in exterior matt white - Park House, The Street, BREDGAR; REASON 1

SW/12/0024:

Variation of condition (i) of planning permission NK/8/61/83 to extend occupancy period from eight to ten months (1st March to 2nd January) - Plough Leisure Caravan Park, Plough Road, MINSTER; REASON 3

SW/12/0183:

Change of use of land for the siting of 2 mobile homes for 2 gypsy families with associated utility blocks, parking for vehicles including touring caravans, services and boundary fence - Land North of Plantation Lodge Farm (known as Highview), School Lane, IWADE; REASON 4

SW/12/0260:

Outline planning application to erect detached, semi-detached and terraced dwellings and associated garages, layout parking and amenity areas, estate roads, footpaths and landscaping - Former School Site, East Hall Farm, SITTINGBOURNE; REASON 3

SW/12/0322:

Erection of workshop to replace polytunnel and container - Conyer Creek Marina and Boatyard, North Quay, CONYER; REASON 6

SW/12/0323:

Replacement of fascias and rainwater goods with UPVC - Westcombe, 8 Roman Road, FAVERSHAM; REASON 1

SW/12/0364 &

SW/12/0427:

Renewal of planning permission SW/08/1169 and Listed Building Consent SW/08/1170 for redevelopment of East Hall Farm, including the conversion and internal alterations to East Hall Farmhouse and outbuildings, to provide 11 dwellings, 26 car spaces. Private and communal areas of open space and landscaping - East Hall Farm, East Hall Lane, SITTINGBOURNE; REASONS 2, 3 and 4

SW/12/0373:

Amended application (SW/10/1512) for loft extension to include conservation rooflight on rear elevation - 22 Kings Road, FAVERSHAM; REASON 1

SW/12/0380:

Amendments to listed building consent SW/09/0284 (Change of use, conversion and extension to first floor to provide 4 one bed flats) by substituting brickwork approval at first floor level at rear for weatherboarding - 39 High Street, SITTINGBOURNE; REASON 2

SW/12/0390 &

SW/12/0391:

Demolition and replacement of rear garden room - 34 London Road, FAVERSHAM; REASON 1

SW/12/0392:

Variation of condition 16 of planning permission SW/04/1051 to permit 24-hour use for petrol sales only - Milton Regis Service Station, St Paul's Street/King Street, Milton Regis, SITTINGBOURNE; REASON 3

SW/12/0398:

Advertisement consent for 1 internally illuminated wall mounted display unit - Co-op, 97 High Street, SITTINGBOURNE; REASON 1

SW/12/0399:

Advertisement consent for one internally illuminated wall mounted display unit - Co-op, 3 The Street, UPCHURCH; REASON 1

SW/12/0409:

Repairs to existing oak frame, timber windows and tiled roof, and internal alterations and repairs including relocation of kitchen - Forge Cottage, The Street, LYNSTED; REASONS 1 & 2

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman

Head of Development Services

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## PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY &amp; VILLAGE GREENS

**PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD****NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER****HIGHWAYS ACT 1980****WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981****THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL****(PUBLIC FOOTPATH AW150 (PART) PLUCKLEY)****PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2012**

On 3 April 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under section 119 of the Highways Act 1980. The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert the entire width of that length of Public Footpath numbered AW150 which commences at its junction with the unaffected length of Public Footpath AW150 at NGR TQ 9173 4398 (Point A) and runs in a south south westerly direction for 115 metres thence southerly for 70 metres to its connection with Chambers Green Road at NGR TQ 9167 4380 (Point B) and to provide a new length of Public Footpath numbered AW150 which commences at its junction with the unaffected length of Public Footpath AW150 at NGR TQ 9173 4398 (Point A) and runs in a west south westerly direction for 18 metres, south westerly for 132 metres thence southerly for 5 metres to a new connection with Chambers Green Road at NGR TQ 9163 4386 (Point C). The new length of path will have a width of 2.0 metres except where it connects with Chambers Green Road at NGR TQ 9163 4386 (Point C) where there will be a gap of 1.0 metre. The new length of path will be situated 1.0 metre from the boundary except for the first 18 metres from NGR TQ 9173 4398 (Point A) and the last 5 metres towards NGR TQ 9163 4386 (Point C).

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Ashford Borough Council, Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS or at the Countryside Access Service at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. A copy of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

The Order comes into force on 1 May 2012, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question the validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 15 April 2012, make an application to the High Court.

**PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS****NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF MODIFICATION ORDER****WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981****DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT****THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH SD47 (PART) HORTON KIRBY & SOUTH DARENTH)****DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012**

On 3 April 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by deleting that length of Public Footpath SD47 which commences at its junction with Gill's Road at NGR TQ 5836 6994 (Point A) and runs in a northerly direction for 53 metres to NGR TQ 5837 7000 (Point B) and adding that length of Public Footpath SD47 with a width of 1.2 metres which commences at its junction with Gill's Road at NGR TQ 5836 6994 (Point A) and runs in a north north easterly direction for 57 metres to its connection with the unaffected length of Public Footpath SD47 at NGR TQ 5838 7000 (Point C).

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Sevenoaks District Council, PO Box 183, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and map may also be purchased there.

This Order became operative as from 3 April 2012 but if

a person aggrieved by the Order desires to question the validity thereof or of any provision contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of Section 53(3)(c)(i) or 53(3)(c)(iii) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, or that any of the requirements of Schedule 15 to the Act have not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he may, under Paragraph 12 of Schedule 15 to the Act, within 42 days from 15 April 2012 make an application for the purpose to the High Court.

**PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF SWALE****NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZS1,****IN THE PARISH OF MINSTER ON SEA****PUBLIC FOOTPATH ZS1, MINSTER****(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(3), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close part of Public Footpath ZS1 between Kent Avenue and The Broadway from the 30th April 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that the proposed works will take 3 weeks and will be completed by 20 July 2012.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on or near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via Kent Avenue and The Broadway and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michael Ellis

**PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF THANET****NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH TMX13 IN MARGATE****PUBLIC FOOTPATH TMX13****(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012****ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(3) AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath TMX13 between Hartsdown Road and NGR TR 349 700 a distance of approximately 170 metres from the 2nd April 2012

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on and near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via a temporary diversion located 25 metres east of TMX13 which will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Louise Adams

**PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE & MALLING****NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF MODIFICATION ORDER WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981****DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT****THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR183 (PART) TROTTSCLIFFE)****DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012**

On 3 April 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by deleting that length of Public Footpath MR183 which commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath MR183 at NGR TQ 6512 6015 (Point A) and runs in a south easterly direction for 195 metres to NGR TQ 6524 6000 (Point B) and adding that length of Public Footpath MR183 which commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath MR183 at NGR TQ 6512 6015 (Point A) and runs in a south easterly direction for 217 metres to its connection with the unaffected length of Public Footpath MR183 at NGR TQ 6528 6000 (Point C). The added length of footpath has a width of 1.2 metres.

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices

of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and map may also be purchased there.

This Order became operative as from 3 April 2012 but if a person aggrieved by the Order desires to question the validity thereof or of any provision contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of Section 53(3)(c)(i) or 53(3)(c)(iii) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, or that any of the requirements of Schedule 15 to the Act have not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he may, under Paragraph 12 of Schedule 15 to the Act, within 42 days from 15 April 2012 make an application for the purpose to the High Court.

**PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS****NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF MODIFICATION ORDER WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981****DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT****THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH WT82 (PART) SPELDHURST)****DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012**

On 3 April 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by deleting that length of Public Footpath WT82 which commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath WT82 at NGR TQ 5421 3985 (Point A) and runs in a north north easterly direction for 160 metres to NGR TQ 5428 4000 (Point B) and adding that length of Public Footpath WT82 with a width of 1.2 metres which commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath WT82 at NGR TQ 5421 3985 (Point A) and runs in a north easterly direction for 172 metres to its connection with the unaffected length of Public Footpath WT82 at NGR TQ 5430 4000 (Point C).

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of The Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and map may also be purchased there.

This Order became operative as from 3 April 2012 but if a person aggrieved by the Order desires to question the validity thereof or of any provision contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of Section 53(3)(c)(i) or 53(3)(c)(iii) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, or that any of the requirements of Schedule 15 to the Act have not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he may, under Paragraph 12 of Schedule 15 to the Act, within 42 days from 15 April 2012 make an application for the purpose to the High Court.

**NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF MODIFICATION ORDER WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981****DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT****THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH WT225 (PARTS) BRENCHLEY)****DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2012**

On 3 April 2012 the Kent County Council confirmed the above Order. The effect of the Order as confirmed is to modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by

deleting those lengths of Public Footpath WT225 which:-

- i) Commences at its junction with Bramble Reed Lane at NGR TQ 6493 4165 (Point A) and runs in an easterly direction for 64 metres to NGR TQ 6500 4166 (Point B).
- ii) Commences at NGR TQ 6500 4168 (Point C) and runs in a south easterly direction for 30 metres to its connection with the unaffected length of Public Footpath WT225 at NGR TQ 6502 4166 (Point D).
- iii) Commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath WT225 at NGR TQ 6504 4164 (Point E) and runs in a north easterly direction for 70 metres, thence east north easterly for 20 metres to its connection with the unaffected length of Public Footpath WT225 at NGR TQ 6511 4169 (Point F)

and adding those lengths of Public Footpath WT225 which:-

- i) Commences at a new connection with Bramble Reed Lane, 17 metres north of the aforementioned point A (NGR TQ 6493 4165) at NGR TQ 6493 4167 (Point G) and runs in an easterly direction for 63 metres to NGR TQ 6500 4167 (Point H). The path has a width of 1.2 metres.
- ii) Commences at NGR TQ 6500 4167 (Point H) and runs in an easterly direction for 20 metres to its connection with the unaffected length of Public Footpath WT225 at NGR TQ 6502 4166 (Point D). The path has a width of 1.2 metres.
- iii) Commences on the unaffected length of Public Footpath WT225 at NGR TQ 6504 4164 (Point E) and runs in a south easterly through easterly direction for 30 metres to NGR TQ 6507 4163 (Point J) thence north north easterly for 79 metres to its connection with the unaffected length of Public Footpath WT225 at NGR TQ 6511 4169 (Point F). The path has a width of 1.2 metres between NGR TQ 6504 4164 (Point E) and NGR TQ 6509 4166 (Point K) and a width of 1.6 metres between NGR TQ 6509 4166 (Point K) and NGR TQ 6511 4169 (Point F).

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of The Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and map may also be purchased there.

This Order became operative as from 3 April 2012 but if a person aggrieved by the Order desires to question the validity thereof or of any provision contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of Section 53(3)(c)(i) or 53(3)(c)(iii) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, or that any of the requirements of Schedule 15 to the Act have not been complied with in relation to the confirmation of the Order, he may, under Paragraph 12 of Schedule 15 to the Act, within 42 days from 15 April 2012 make an application for the purpose to the High Court.

Countryside Access Service  
Kent County Council  
Invicta House  
County Hall  
Maidstone  
Kent  
ME14 1XX

Dated: 15th April 2012

*This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.*

For further information, please contact  
Kent Countryside Access Service,  
on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm)  
or visit [www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess](http://www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess)



To place your notice here,  
call the Kent Public Notice team on

01303 817044

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

PLUMPTON & GREEN LANE, BRABOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012  
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984  
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the installation of a new electricity supply cable, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Plumpton & Green Lane, Brabourne, on or after 17 April 2012 for up to 18 weeks.

PLUMPTON will be closed in phases from the junction with Hampton Lane, working towards Manor Pound Lane.

The alternative route for through traffic is via Hampton Lane, Canterbury Road, Bulltown Lane and Green Lane.

Signage in Quarrington Lane will indicate which direction traffic can travel when it reaches Plumpton.

GREEN LANE will then be closed between the junctions with Plumpton and Manor Pound Lane.

The alternative route is via Bulltown Lane, Brabourne Road and Weekes Lane

The progress of the works will depend on weather and ground conditions, and the specific sections of road to be closed will be notified to local residents and signposted on site.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

BEST LANE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984  
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway and footway improvement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Best Lane, Canterbury, on or after 16 April 2012 for up to 14 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between High Street and the entrance to Orange Street Car Park.

The alternative route is via High Street, St Peter's Street and The Friars.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

COLLER CRESCENT, DARENTH- (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984  
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Collier Crescent, Darenth from Langlands Drive for its entire length.

The Order will become effective on 20th April 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 1 week from the hours of 08:00hrs - 17:00hrs. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Carriageway micro surfacing works.

CRAYLANDS LANE, SWANSCOMBE - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984  
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Craylands Lane, Swanscombe.

The Order will become effective on 16th April 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence between 22:00Hrs - 06:00. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Milton Street, Manor Road, Swanscombe Street, Stanhope Road, High Street and A226 London Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 9) ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL acting as the local authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 1(1), 2(1) to 3, 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(3), 35(1) and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order.

The effect of the first named Order will introduce no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the following road or lengths of road;

Littlebrook Manor Way On both sides from its junction with Bob Dunn Way to the junction with Rennie Drive.

Rennie Drive On both sides from its junction with Littlebrook Manor Way to the junction with Marsh Street.

Binnie Road Both sides entire length.

Marsh Street On both sides from its junction with Bob Dunn Way to the entrance to Longreach Sewage Works.

Halcrow Avenue Both sides entire length

The effect of the Order will also introduce no waiting 6.00pm to 6.00am the following day every day (7 days) on Brunel Way for the entire length.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BINNIE ROAD AND HALCROW AVENUE, DARTFORD) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL acting as the local authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) to (3) and 3(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order.

The effect of the second named Order will also introduce prohibition of driving on following lengths of road;

Binnie Road From its junction with Marsh Street (roundabout) for its entire length

Halcrow Avenue From its junction with Marsh Street (roundabout) for its entire length

A copy of the Order, which comes into operation 20th April 2012, together with an explanatory statement and a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the Order may be examined at the Dartford Borough Council offices, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone during normal opening hours.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

DEAN LANE, MEOPHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984  
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic in Dean Lane, Meopham from Swift Farm.

The Order will become effective on 16th April 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 3 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: White Hill Road and Oakenden Road

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate BT openreach to gain safe access to telegraph pole.

RAPHAEL ROAD, GRAVESEND- (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984  
AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Raphael Road, Gravesend between its junction with Waterton Road and Denton Street.

The Order will become effective on 16th April 2012, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 7 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Range Road, Elliott Street, Lower Road, Mark Lane and Waterton Avenue

The purpose of the closure is to allow safe access to wet well.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham and Dartford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (A226 THAMES WAY, A2260 (PART) AND A2 (PART) DARTFORD & GRAVESHAM) (24 HOUR CLEARWAY) ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL acting as the local authority and in exercise of their powers under Sections 1(1), 2(1) and 4(1) of the Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order:-

The effect of the Order will introduce a clearway on the following road or lengths of road;

1. the A226 road from the Thames Way roundabout junction with Stonebridge Road and Grove Road at Ordnance Survey National Grid reference point TQ6147074704 to its junction with Springhead Road at Ordnance Survey National Grid reference point TQ6238073451;
2. the A2260 road from its junction with the A226 Thames Way at the Ebbsfleet Gateway at Ordnance Survey National Grid reference point TQ6182073888 to the junction with the A2 on slip at the Ebbsfleet Link Roundabout B at Ordnance Survey National Grid reference point TQ6149772779;
3. the spur road from the Southfleet Road roundabout junction with the A2260 and the A2 off slip at the Ebbsfleet Link Roundabout C at Ordnance Survey National Grid reference point TQ6124072871 in a westerly direction for a distance of 85 metres to Ordnance Survey National Grid reference point TQ6116472907

Full details of the Order, which comes into operation on 16th April 2012, together with an explanatory statement and a map illustrating the lengths of road concerned may be inspected during normal office hours in the offices of the Dartford Borough Council Civic Centre Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1DR, Gravesham Borough Council Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1AU, and Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - Boroughs of Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge & Malling, Gravesham, Dartford and District of Sevenoaks

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, MAIDSTONE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, TONBRIDGE & MALLING, GRAVESHAM, DARTFORD AND SEVENOAKS) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984  
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are being carried out on or near the road Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on the routes described in schedule below.

The Order will become effective on 1st May 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The dates shown in the schedules are anticipated dates however actual work dates will be displayed by signage on site 7 days in advance. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative routes for the restrictions are also stated in the attached schedules.

The roads in the schedule will need to be re-closed approximately 7 days after original closure to carry out road sweeping and replacement of lines.

Schedule

MAIDSTONE

Maidstone East

Road Name: Bottom Pond Road, Wormshill  
Extent: The Street, Wormshill to Bedmonton Lane  
Date: 3rd May 2012 for 1 working day between 07.00 - 19.00  
Diversion: Via Lime Kiln Road, Bashford Barn Lane, Swanton Street and Court Dane Shaws and Bedmonton Lane and The Street

Road Name: Bedmonton Lane, Wormshill  
Extent: From The Street, Wormshill to Court Dane Shaws.  
Date: 4th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07.00 - 19.00  
Diversion: Via The Street, The Street, Bottom Pond Road, Lime Kiln Road, Bashford Barn Lane, Swanton Street and Court Dane Shaws

Road Name: Clapper Lane, Staplehurst  
Extent: A229 Maidstone Road to Marden Road  
Date: 6th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07.00 - 19.00  
Diversion: Via Marden Road, A229 Station Road and Maidstone Road

Road Name: Greenway Forstal, (Greenway Lane), Harrietsham  
Extent: Greenway Court Road to Holm Mill Lane  
Date: 2nd May 2012 for 1 working day between 07.00 - 19.00  
Diversion: Holm Mill Lane, A20 Ashford Road and Greenway Court Road

Road Name: Hubbards Hill, Lenham  
Extent: A20 Ashford Road to Warren Street  
Date: 3rd May 2011 for 1 working day between 07.00 - 19.00  
Diversion: Via Warren Street, Waterditch Lane, Rayners Hill and A20 Ashford Road

Road Name: Woodcock Lane, Boughton Malherbe  
Extent: Headcorn Road to Coldbridge Lane  
Date: 6th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07.00 - 19.00  
Diversion: Via Coldbridge Lane and Headcorn Road

Road Name: Stede Hill, Harrietsham  
Extent: Marley Road to Ringlestone Road  
Date: nd May 2012 for 1 working day between 07.00 - 19.00  
Diversion: Via Ringlestone Road, Ashdown Road, West Street, Faversham Road, A20 Ashford Road, Church Road and Stede Hill

Road Name: Sandway, Boughton Malherbe  
Extent: Boughton Road to Bowley Lane (where it changes to Coach Road)  
Date: 4th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07.00 - 19.00  
Diversion: Via Boughton Road, Church Road, Woodcock Lane, Coldbridge Lane, Egerton House Road and Coach Road

Road Name: Old Mill Road, Leeds  
Extent: A20 Ashford Road to Forge Lane  
Date: 2nd May 2012 for 1 working day between 07.00 - 19.00  
Diversion: Via Forge Lane, Caring Lane, Otham Lane and A20 Ashford Road

Road Name: Gossy Hill Road, Frinstead  
Extent: Bottom Pond Road to Frinstead church crossroads  
Date: 4th May 2012 between 07.00 - 19.00  
Diversion: Via Torry Hill Road, Frinstead Road, Horn Hill and Bottom Pond Road

Road Name: Battle Lane, Staplehurst  
Extent: Marden Road to B2079 Maidstone Road  
Date: 6th May 2012 between 07.00 - 19.00  
Diversion: Via B2079 Maidstone Road and Howland Road.

Road Name: Boughton Road/Church Road, Boughton Malherbe  
Extent: Sandway/Boughton Road crossroads to Woodcock Lane  
Date: 4th May 2012 between 07.00 - 19.00  
Diversion: Via Woodcock Lane, Headcorn Road, Lenham Heath Road and Boughton Road.

Maidstone West

Road Name: School Lane, Maidstone  
Extent: Willington Street to Oxford Rd  
Date: 1st May 2012 for 1 working day between 09:00 - 15:30  
Diversion: Willington Street, Northumberland Rd and Oxford Rd.

For further information, please contact  
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,  
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)  
or visit [www.kent.gov.uk/highways](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highways)





Road Name: Castle Hill, Thurnham.  
Extent: Whole length.  
Date: 1st May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Cul de Sac

Road Name: Thurnham Lane, Thurnham  
Extent: Between Ware Street and Pilgrims Way  
Date: 1st May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Pilgrims Way, Water Lane and The Street.

Road Name: Redwall Lane, Linton  
Extent: A229 Linton Hill to Bonflower Lane  
Date: 7th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: A229 Linton Hill, Wheeler's Lane, Barnes Lane and Bonflower Lane.

Road Name: B2163 Teston Lane, West Farleigh.  
Extent: Teston Bridge to B2010 Lower Rd  
Date: 7th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: A26 Tonbridge Rd, Terrace Rd, Rocky Hill, St Peter's St, Bishops Way, A229 Mill Street, Palace Avenue, Upper Stone Street, Sheal's Crescent, Hayle Rd, B2010 Collage Rd, Tovil Rd, Tovil Hill, Farleigh Hill B2010 Dean St, B2010 Lower Rd.

#### Tunbridge Wells

Road Name: Glassenbury Road, Cranbrook  
Extent: Chalk Lane to A229 Hartley Road  
Date: 11th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Via A229 Hartley Road, Angley Road, A262 Goudhurst Road, Glassenbury Road.

Road Name: Pearsons Green Road, Paddock Wood  
Extent: Queen Street to Knowle Road  
Date: 8th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Via Pearsons Green Road, Churn Lane, B2162 Maidstone Road, Yew Tree Green Road, Crook Road, Pixot Hill, Mile Oak Road.

Road Name: A229 Rocks Hill/Camden Hill/The Common, Cranbrook  
Extent: j/w A262 Wilsley Pound roundabout to a point 150m south of Grandshore Lane  
Date: 11th May 2012 for 1 working day between 0930 - 1530  
Diversion: Via A262 The Street Sissinghurst, Sissinghurst Road, High Street Biddenden, A274 North Street, Headcorn Road, Biddenden Road, Biddenden Lane, Wheeler Street, Station Road, High Street Headcorn, North Street, Mill Bank, Maidstone Road, Headcorn Road, North Street, B 2163 Plough Wents Road, Cock Street, Heath Road, A229 Linton Hill, Staplehurst Road, Maidstone Road, Station Road Staplehurst, High Street, and Cranbrook Road.

Road Name: Penshurst Road, Bidborough  
Extent: Haysden Lane to Penshurst High Street  
Date: 14th May 2012 for 1 working day between 0930 - 1530  
Diversion: Via B2176 Penshurst Road, Bidborough Ridge, A26 London Road, St John's Road, A264 Church Road, Bishops Down, Langton Road, Ashurst Road, B2188 Fordcombe Road, Spring Hill, Saints Hill, New Road, Fordcombe Road, Penshurst High Street, B2176 Rogues Hill

Road Name: Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood  
Extent 1: Ringden Avenue to Badsell Road  
Extent 2: Badsell Road to Chantlers Hill  
Date: 8th May for 1 working day between 0930 - 1530  
Diversion 1: B2160 Maidstone Road, A228 Whetsted Road and B2017 Badsell Road  
Diversion 2: B2160 Geddes Hill, Maidstone Road, A21 Hastings Road, A228 Maidstone Road and B2017 Badsell Road

Road Name: Husheath Hill, Colliers Green, Goudhurst  
Extent: Between Colliers Green Road to Hart Heath Farm Road.  
Date: 9th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Via Horden Road and Hart Heath Farm Road.

Road Name: North Road, Goudhurst  
Extent: Between A262 Goudhurst High Street to B2084 Chequers Road  
Date: 8th May for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Via B2076 North Road, B2084 Chequers Road, A262 Cranbrook Rd, Church Road and High Street

Road Name: Halden Lane, Rolvenden  
Extent: A28 Tenterden Road to Stepneyford Lane  
Date: 12th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Via A28 Tenterden Road, B2086 Benenden Road and Stepneyford Lane

Road Name: Bishopden Road, East End, Benenden  
Extent: Between Frogs Hole Lane to Tenterden Road  
Date: 12th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Via Frogs Hole Lane and Tenterden Road

Road Name: Sponden Lane, Hawkhurst  
Extent: A268 Rye Road (Field Green) to Sponden Lane (east arm)  
Date: 12th May 2011 for 2 working days between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: A268 Rye Road and Sponden Lane (east arm)

Road Name: Old Whetsted Road, Paddock Wood  
Extent: Whole length around loop  
Date: 7th May 2011 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: No diversion (Access from either end)

Road Name: Curtisden Green Lane and Round Green Lane, Curtisden Green, Goudhurst  
Extent: Colliers Green Road to Husheath Hill  
Date: 9th May 2011 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Via Colliers Green Road, A262 Cranbrook Road, B2084 Chequers Road, B2079 Marden Road and via Curtisden Green Lane and Horden Road.

Road Name: Neils Road, Lamberhurst  
Extent: B2169 Furnace Lane to Free Heath Road  
Date: 14th May 2011 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Via B2169 Furnace Lane and Free Heath Road

Road Name: Wellington Road, Hawkhurst  
Extent: A229 Cranbrook Road to Slip Mill Road)  
Date: 12th May 2011 for 2 working days between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Via A 229 Cranbrook Road, A268 High Street, Slip Mill Lane.

Road Name: Heartenoak Road, Hawkhurst  
Extent: A229 Cranbrook Road to Whites Lane  
Date: 13th May 2011 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Via 229 Cranbrook Road and Ockley Road

Road Name: Field Green, Hawkhurst  
Extent: Sponden Lane to Foxhole Lane  
Date: 13th May 2011 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Via Sponden Lane, A268 Rye Road and Foxhole Lane.

#### Tonbridge & Malling

Road Name: Powder Mill Lane, Leigh.  
Extent: Powder Mill Lane to Factory entrance beyond Hunters Seal  
Date: 15th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Cul de sac

Road Name: Hamptons Road, Shipbourne.  
Extent: School Lane to Park Road,  
Date: 16th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: East / West Carpenters Lane, A26 High St Hadlow, The Ridgeway, A227 Shipbourne Road, A227 Stumble Hill, Upper Green Rd, Reeds Lane.  
Diversion South: Dunks Green, Long Mill lane, The Street, Church Hill, School lane.

Road Name: Claygate Lane, Shipbourne.  
Extent: Entire Length  
Date: 17th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Reeds Lane, Hamptons Road, Puttenden Lane

Road Name: Park Road, East Peckham.  
Extent: Entire Length  
Date: 17th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Roydon Hall Rd, A228 Seven Mile Lane, B2015 Maidstone Rd, Gibbs Hill Nettleshead Lane.

Road Name: Stan Lane, West Peckham  
Extent: Spur between Swanton Road and Stan Lane.  
Date: 18th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Stan Lane and Swanton Rd

Road Name: Thong Lane, Borough Green.  
Extent: Entire Length  
Date: 21st May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Mill Lane, A227 Bates Hill, The Street, Fen Pond Rd, Borough Green Rd, A25 Sevenoaks Rd, Quarry Hill Rd.

Road Name: Ford Lane, Addington & Trottiscliffe.  
Extent: Addington Lane to Wrotham Water Road.  
Date: 21st May 2012 for 1 working day between 09:00 - 15:30  
Diversion: Allington Lane, Trottiscliffe Rd, A20 London Rd.

Road Name: Fairseat Lane, Wrotham.  
Extent: Entire Length  
Date: 21st May 2012 for 1 working day between 09:00 - 15:30  
Diversion: Platt House Lane, Vigo Rd and A227 Gravesend Rd.

Road Name: Platt House Lane, Stansted.  
Extent: Entire Length  
Date: 21st May 2012 for 1 working day between 09:00 - 15:30  
Diversion: South Bound; Vigo Road and A227 Gravesend Rd. North bound Fairseat Lane, A227 Gravesend Rd, Vigo Road

Road Name: Pilgrims Way, Wrotham.  
Extent: Entire length  
Date: 22nd May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: A20 London Road, Ford Lane, Wrotham Water Road.

Road Name: Wrotham Water Road, Wrotham.  
Extent: Entire Length  
Date: 22nd May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Ford Lane, The Street and Wrotham Water Lane.

Road Name: Roughetts Road, Ryarsh  
Extent: Church Road to The Street  
Date: 22nd May 2012 for 1 working day between 09:00 - 15:30  
Diversion: Woodgate Road, Trottiscliffe Road A20 London Road and Roughetts Road.

Road Name: Work House Lane, Ryarsh  
Extent: Entire Length  
Date: 23rd May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: The Street and Chapel Street.

Road Name: Park Farm Road, Ryarsh.  
Extent: Entire length.  
Date: 23rd May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Cul de Sac.

Road Name: Court Road, Burham  
Extent: Entire Length  
Date: 24th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Rochester Rd, Scarborough Lane and Old Church Rd.

Road Name: Hall Road, Wouldham  
Extent: Entire Length  
Date: 24th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Cul de Sac

Road Name: School Lane, Wouldham  
Extent: Entire Length  
Date: 24th May 2012 for 1 working day between 09:00 - 15:30  
Diversion: The High Street, Knowle Rd and Pilgrims Way.

#### Gravesham

Road Name: Church Road, Cobham.  
Extent: Round Street to Henhurst Road  
Date: 25th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Jeskyns Road, Henhurst Road, Sole Street, Round Street

Road Name: Dean Road, Gravesham  
Extent: Dean Lane to Oakendean Road  
Date: 26th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Dean Lane, Chandlers Hill, Brimstone Hill, Oakendean Road

Road Name: Round Street, Cobham  
Extent: Sole Street to Jeskyns Road  
Date: 26th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Church Road, Henhurst Road, Jeskyns Road, Sole Street

Road Name: Lower Rochester Road, Higham.  
Extent: Lower Rochester Road to School Lane  
Date: 26th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Lower Rochester Road, A289 Wainscott By Pass, A226 Gravesend Road, Forge Lane, School Lane

Road Name: Hermitage Road, Higham.  
Extent: School Lane to Lower Rochester Road  
Date: 27th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Lower Rochester Road, Church Street, Chalk Road, School Lane

#### Dartford

Road Name: Longfield Avenue, Longfield.  
Extent: New Barn Road for its entire length  
Date: 27th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: n/a

Road Name: Southfleet Road, Dartford.  
Extent: Swanscombe Street to Thames Way  
Date: 28th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Thames Way, Stonebridge Road, Galley Hill Road, High Street, Stanhope Road

Road Name: Station Road, Southfleet.  
Extent: Dale Road to Westwood Road  
Date: 28th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Dale Road, Hook Green Road, Highcross Road, Betsham Road, Park Corner Road, Foxhounds Lane

Road Name: Heath Lane Upper, Dartford.  
Extent: Oakfield Lane to Princes Road  
Date: 29th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Princes Road, Shepherds Lane, Oakfield Lane

Road Name: Church Hill, Wilmington  
Extent: Hawley Road to High Street  
Date: 29th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Hawley Road, Oakfield Lane, Common Lane, High Road

#### Sevenoaks

Road Name: Coltstead, Ash-Cum-Ridley.  
Extent: Ash Road to Chapel Wood Road  
Date: 30th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Ash Road and Chapel Wood Road

Road Name: Pease Hill, Ash-Cum-Ridley.  
Extent: The Street to Hartley Bottom Road  
Date: 30th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: The Street, Ash Road, Redhill Road, and Hartley Bottom Road

Road Name: Maplescombe Lane, Farningham.  
Extent: Donkey Lane to Botsom Lane  
Date: 30th May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Donkey Lane, A20 Gorse Hill, London Road and Botsom Lane

Road Name: Cold Arbor Road, Chevening.  
Extent: A25 Westerham Road to Bridge Over A21  
Date: 31st May 2012 for 1 working day between 09:30 - 15:30  
Diversion: A25 Westerham Road, Main Road, High Street Brasted, Westerham Road, Brasted Road, Westerham Road, B2026 Hosey Hill, Hosey Common Road, Main Road, B269 Spout Lane, Pootings Road, B2042 Green Lane, Ide Hill Road, B2042 Wheatsheaf Hill, Chevening Road

Road Name: Cow Lane, Hever.  
Extent: Cowden Pound Road to Buckhurst Lane  
Date: 31st May 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Buckhurst, Brockenhurst Lane and Buckhurst Lane

Road Name: Rogues Hill, Penshurst.  
Extent: Between Penshurst Village and "Swaylands" Development  
Date: 31st May 2012 for 1 working day between 09:30 - 15:30  
Diversion: B2176 Penshurst Road, Bidborough Ridge, A26 London Road, St John's Road, A264 Church Road, Bishops Down, Langton Road, Ashurst Road, B2188 Fordcombe Road, Spring Hill, Saints Hill, New Road, Fordcombe Road, Penshurst High Street.

Road Name: Roodlands Lane, Hever  
Extent: Green Lane to Clinton Lane.  
Date: 1st June 2012 for 1 working day between 07:00 - 19:00  
Diversion: Green Lane, Ide Hill Road and Bough Beech Road

For further information, please contact  
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,  
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)  
or visit [www.kent.gov.uk/highways](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highways)



HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

ASHGROVE ROAD SEVENOAKS - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Ashgrove Road, Sevenoaks at Junction of Hopgarden Lane to Oak Lane.

The Order will become effective on 29 April 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 30/04/2012 and should last approx 5 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Oak Lane, Weald Road, Ashgrove Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the installation of a power network cable.

BANK LANE, SEVENOAKS (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Bank Lane outside property known as Hopefield.

The Order will become effective on 15th April 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 16th April 2012 and will last for approx 5 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: London Road, Mill Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate a new gas supply.

SKEET HILL LANE, SEVENOAKS (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Skeet Hill Lane from the junction Daltons Road to Junction Gorse Road.

The Order will become effective on 22nd April 2012 and will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 25th April 2012 and will last for approx 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Well Hill, Hawstead Lane, Bucks Cross Road, Chelsfield Lane, Skeet Hill Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate BT cabling works.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

BANK STREET, HYTHE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bank Street, Hythe, on or after 16 April 2012 for up to 3 weeks.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Chapel Street and the High Street.

The alternative route is via A259 Prospect Road and High Street which re-opens on 16th April 2012.

The Order prohibiting driving along High Street, Hythe between 11.00 am and 3.00 pm will be suspended whilst Bank Street is closed.

ST JOHN'S ROAD, NEW ROMNEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install a new water meter and pipework, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on St John's Road, New Romney, on or after 16 April 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with A259 Lydd Road.

The alternative route is via A259 Lydd Road and West Street.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, NEW ROMNEY) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER 1984

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 1(1), 2(4) to (3), 3 (2), 4 (1) and (2), 32 (1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby makes the following Order:-

1. The Order "THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (Various Roads, New Romney) (Waiting Restriction and Street Parking Places) Order 2012" will introduce a 'no waiting at any time' (double yellow lines) on the following lengths of road in New Romney.

LITTLESTONE ROAD - NEW ROMNEY

- (i) Littlestone Road - From a point 20 metres east of its junction with Station Approach to a point 10 metres south of its junction with Station Approach.

STATION APPROACH - NEW ROMNEY

- (ii) Station Approach - On the western side to a point 10 metres south of its junction with Littlestone Road.

A copy of the Order, which comes into operation 20th April 2012, together with an explanatory statement and a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Shepway District Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone during normal opening hours.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

STAFFORDSHIRE STREET, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repair works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Staffordshire Street, Ramsgate, on or after 16 April 2012 for up to 2 days, between 8.00 am and 4.00 pm. The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative routes are

Northbound via Turner Street, Broad Street and Hardres Street.

Southbound via Hardres Street, Belmont Street, King Street, Brunswick Street and Turner Street.

There will be no through access along Union Street

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (ASHES LANE, HADLOW) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Ashes Lane on or after Monday 30th April 2012 for a period of up to 1 week or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Higham Lane, Cuckoo Lane, A26 Tonbridge Road.

UK Power Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for cabling. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Kevin McDermott on 0797 3803611.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CHATHAM ROAD AND OLD CHATHAM ROAD AYLESFORD) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC AND SUSPENSION OF ONE-WAY) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an order an Order prohibiting:-

- 1) Southbound traffic on Chatham Road, Aylesford between the northern junction of Old Chatham Road to the southern junction of Old Chatham Road.
- 2) Northbound traffic on Old Chatham Road, Aylesford between the southern junction of Chatham Road to the entrance to the Lower Bell Industrial Estate.

And also suspending the existing northbound traffic only one-way order on Old Chatham Road, Aylesford between the entrance to the Lower Bell Industrial Estate to the northern junction of Chatham Road.

This order will be effective on or after Monday 16th April 2012 when required for a period of up to 3 weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative routes for the above are for 1) via Old Chatham Road southbound and 2) via Chatham Road northbound then Old Chatham Road southbound.

Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Jack Hanger of South East water on 01634 873095

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL HIGH STREET, WEST MALLING (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is taking place on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on High Street, West Malling, between the entrance to the short stay car park (adj. 107 High Street) and the junction with Swan Street.

The Order will become effective on 22nd April 2012 for the dates shown in schedule 1 below, between the hours of 6.00am to 3.00pm or until the time stated next to that date. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place for the durations of the events. Access will be maintained at all times as much as is possible.

The alternative route for High Street, West Malling will be via A228 Ashton Way, A20 London Road and Town Hill.

The purpose of the Order is to enable the Farmers Market, the Christmas lights switch on and the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations to take place.

For further information please contact Kent County Council Highways & Transportation on 08458 247 800.

Schedule 1

Sunday 22nd April 2012 (until 5.00pm)	Sunday 28rd October 2012
Sunday 29th April 2012 (until 5.00pm)	Sunday 25th November 2012 (until 8.00pm)
Sunday 27th May 2012	Sunday 16th December 2012
Sunday 4th June 2012 (until 6.00pm)	Sunday 23rd December 2012
Sunday 24th June 2012	Sunday 27th January 2013
Sunday 22nd July 2012	Sunday 24th February 2013
Sunday 26th August 2012	Sunday 24th March 2013
Sunday 23rd September 2012	

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (FOOTPATH, COLEBROOK ROAD, SOUTHBOROUGH) (PROHIBITION OF PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by pedestrian traffic on the footpath that runs between 81 and 83 Colebrook Road on or after Monday 30th April 2012 for a period of 4 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Baldwins Lane, North Farm Road, Highfield Road, High Brooms Road, Colebrook Road.

Mr Adams apologises for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to knock down and rebuild a retaining wall, and should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Mr Adams on 07900 181327.

For further information or comment please call KCC Highways on 08458 247 800.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (THE STREET, BENENDEN) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on The Street at the crossroads with the junctions of New Pond Road and Iden Green Road between 19.00hrs and 05.00hrs on or after Tuesday 1st May 2012 for a period of up to 1 night or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via A28 High Street/Hastings Road, A268 Sandhurst Road/Rye Road/Queens Road/Megrim's Hill/Rye Road, A229 Cranbrook Road/Hawkhurst Road, B2086 Swatenden Lane/Benenden Road/Cranbrook Road/Mounts Hill.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary for safety critical carriageway repairs. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Sue Laporte on 08458 247 800.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, SPELDHURST, TUNBRIDGE WELLS) (SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL hereby makes the above named Order under section 82 and 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984.

The effect of the Order will introduce various speed limits on the following road or lengths of road;

Schedule 1 (Roads subject to a speed limit of 30 mph)

SPELDHURST

C46 Barden Road From a point 200 metres north of its junction with Furzfield Avenue south eastwards to its junction with Speldhurst Hill.

C45 Speldhurst Hill For its entire length.  
C40 Speldhurst Road From its junction with Speldhurst Hill southwards to a point 85 metres south of Ferbies.

C40 Penshurst Road From its junction with Speldhurst Road north westwards to a point 240 metres northwest of its junction with Southfields.

Lower Green Road From its junction with Speldhurst Hill south eastwards for 175 metres.

LANGTON

C40 Speldhurst Road From its junction with Langton Road northwards to a point 175 metres north of Courtenwell.

A264 Langton Road From a point 340 metres west of its junction with Speldhurst Road eastwards to a point 170 metres east of its junction with Farnham Lane.

GROOMBRIDGE

B2110 Groombridge Hill From a point 275 metres north of its junction with Bird in Hand Street southwards to the boundary of Speldhurst Parish.

Bird in Hand Street From its junction with Groombridge Hill north westwards for 180 metres.

ASHURST

A264 Ashurst Road From the boundary of Speldhurst Parish eastwards for 800 metres.

For further information, please contact  
Kent County Council Highways and Transportation,  
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)  
or visit [www.kent.gov.uk/highways](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highways)





## HIGHWAYS

**Schedule 2**  
(Roads subject to a speed limit of 40 mph)**SPELDHURST**

- C46 Barden Road From a point 200 metres north of its junction with Furzfield Avenue northwards for 1050 metres.
- C45 Etherington Hill From a point 265 metres east of its junction with Stockland Green Road eastwards to the boundary of Speldhurst Parish.
- Stockland Green Road From its junction with Etherington Hill northwards and eastwards to the boundary of Speldhurst Parish (junction with Bentham Hill).
- C40 Speldhurst Road From a point 85 metres south of its junction with Ferbies southwards to a point 100 metres south of its junction with Burnt House Lane.

**LANGTON**

- A264 Langton Road From a point 170 metres east of Farnham Lane eastwards to the boundary of Speldhurst Parish.

**Schedule 3**  
(Roads subject to a speed limit of 50 mph)**LANGTON & ASHURST**

- A264 Langton Road From a point 340 metres west of its junction with Speldhurst Road westwards to a point 800 metres eastwards from the boundary of Speldhurst Parish.

**GROOMBRIDGE**

- B2110 Groombridge Hill From a point 275 metres north of its junction with Bird in Hand Street north eastwards to its junction with A264 Ashurst Road.

A copy of the Order, which comes into operation 20th April 2012, together with a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order, a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Town Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone during normal opening hours.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

John Burr  
Director Kent Highways  
Invicta House  
County Hall,  
Maidstone  
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 15th April 2012

For further information, please contact  
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You can get inside the head of Paul Merton as he sets out on the road

SEE PAGE 51

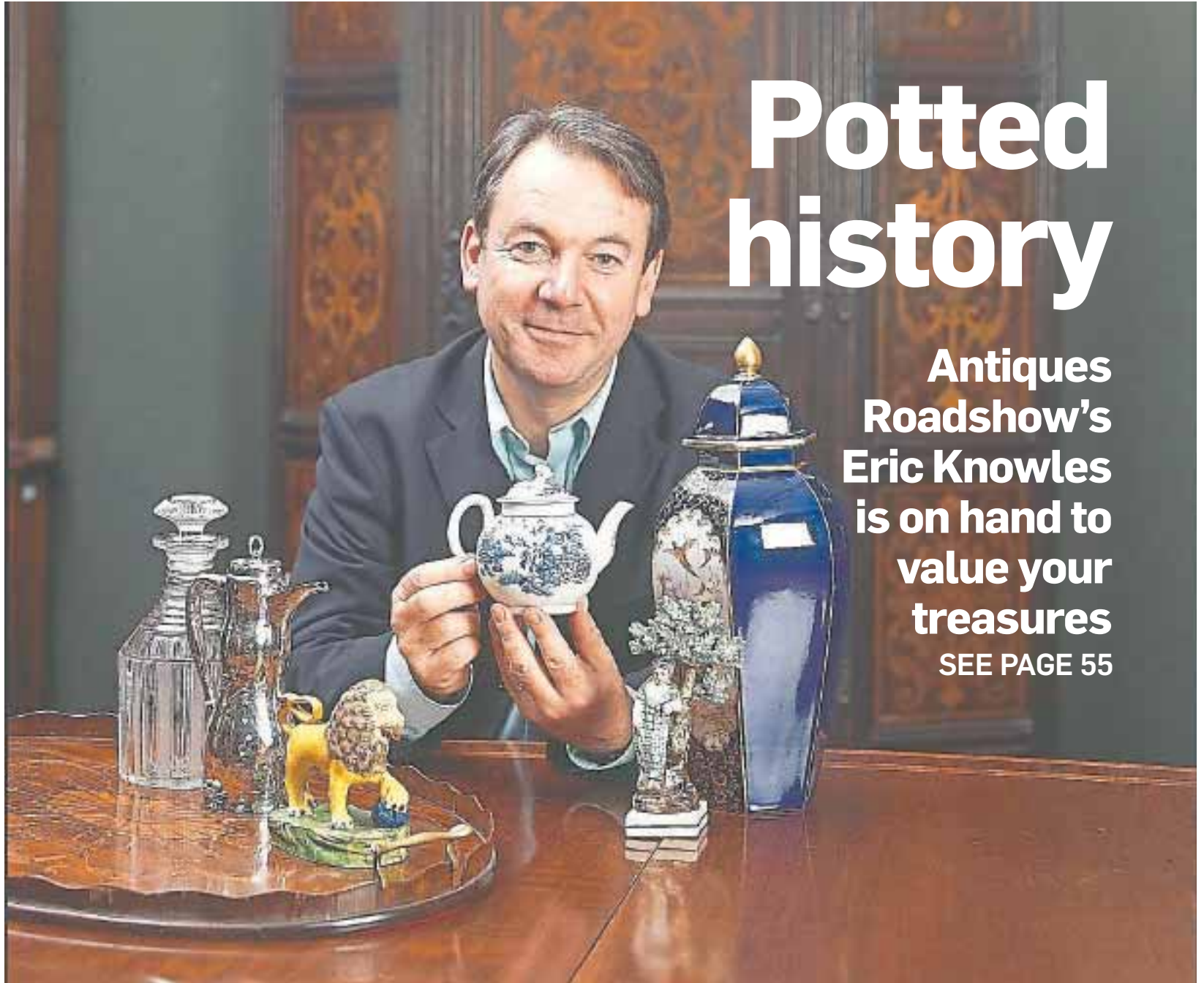


## A GOOD SPORT

Journalist Mihir Bose is at the top of his game

SEE PAGE 59

# Kent Weekend



## Potted history

Antiques Roadshow's Eric Knowles is on hand to value your treasures

SEE PAGE 55

**PLUS:** That wonderful pub food you've been looking for... we've found it - **food and drink p53** Developer invites you to exchange your home for something more - **property p60** Citroën looks to the skies - **driving p69**



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# THE INTERVIEW

# Paul Merton

**N**OT quite ready to be placed in Room 101 just yet, panel-show regular and comedic TV star Paul Merton is bringing his new stand-up show to Kent this month.

Out Of My Head is Merton's first newly-written show since 1998, but getting back on the horse can't have been too daunting for the Have I Got News For You funnyman as he has already bagged a whopping 50 dates for this tour.

The new show will give fans an unprecedented insight into the wondrous workings of Merton's mind. The stand-up will be interspersed with sketches, music, magic, variety and perhaps even some dancing girls.

Merton has been at the top of his game for more than two decades, serving a massive 22 years behind the Have I Got News For You desk with Ian Hislop. However, for the coming tour Merton will be joining up with pals Lee Simpson, Richard Vranich and Suki Webster, who all take part in the show.

He said: "We're having such a great time. It's about taking the plunge and devising a show that is fully scripted. It has stand-up, sketches, interaction with the audience and a few things that will startle people. Working on a tour that starts off as a mere jotting on the back of a fag packet and develops into a spectacular show is a sheer joy."

Having been a key member of the country's most famous improvisational troupe, The Comedy Store Players, since its formation in 1985, Merton is an expert in doing things off the cuff.

He said: "I get such a buzz from performing live. It's the best rush in the world – better than anything else you can think of. If you're trying to convince a TV producer that something is funny, it can take ages. But if you have a good idea with The Comedy Store Players, you just say it there and then."

"You don't have to take it to a commissioning editor, or get a budget and have the comedy kicked out of it by a committee. And you immediately know whether it's funny because you'll hear the sound of laughter – or not."

Merton has also enjoyed a successful career as a travel-documentary presenter, producing memorable pieces such as Paul Merton In China, Paul Merton In India, Paul Merton In Europe and Paul Merton's Adventures. But, as he explained, there is still nothing to compare to the stand-up game.

He said: "It's so inspiring. You just ride the

# Have I got stand-up for you

Ever wondered what goes on in Paul Merton's head? Now you can find out



wave of laughter and then you might come up with something. Ralph Richardson used to talk about pushing a huge ball up a hill to the point where it gains momentum and starts rolling down the other side. That's what live comedy is like. The only snag is, you have to do it while trying to look completely relaxed."

The comedian stays 'in the zone' by

performing every week with his impro troupe, meaning he is ready for anything at all times.

He said: "That [the troupe] feeds into everything else I do. When Have I Got News For You comes around, I don't think 'Oh no, I'm a bit rusty'. Doing The Comedy Store Players every Sunday means you're match-fit all the time. It's a performance muscle. If it's not

getting flexed, it gets flabby. That's why people who haven't been onstage for a while struggle when they go back to the theatre – because it's a completely different discipline."

In the Out Of My Head show, Merton will no longer have to be put on the spot, something that allows him to relax a little... but not too much.

"With this show we get to repeat moments we really enjoy. In impro, you can't go back and do it again, but here you get the chance to create a show over a sustained period of rehearsal – and that's wonderful."

It has been almost 15 years since Merton took to the stage on his own for a stand-up show and, as he explained, the experience wasn't one he wanted to repeat too often.

He said: "Having spent so many years working with other people, when I did a stand-up tour on my own in 1998 I really didn't enjoy sitting on my own in the dressing room during the interval. All the same, I'm sure I'll be sitting there on this tour thinking 'Why did I bring those guys along?'."

Out of My Head will cover a variety of themes, including the class system and the spell Merton spent in hospital after falling ill from anti-malaria tablets.

But the overriding theme of the show is imagination: "I went to a Catholic school. When I was 10, I wrote an essay which the nun who was teaching me really didn't like because it was imaginative. She didn't like imagination."

"It was one of those things that you know is desperately unfair but can't do anything about because you are only 10."

"So I began thinking 'A nun who is wrong about something so fundamental might well be wrong about other stuff, too'. Imagination has built my entire career. This show is a celebration of imagination."

• **Paul Merton brings Out Of My Head to The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury, on Tuesday, April 24. Phone 01227 787787 or visit [marlowetheatre.com](http://marlowetheatre.com) for tickets.**

• **The Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, hosts the show on Monday, April 30. For tickets, phone 01892 530613 or visit [assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk](http://assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk).**

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**HI** I'm Jo, petite, pretty, fed up with own company, seeking male to help me get back into the swing of things, for uncomplicated fun times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387103** ♀**DEBBIE** slim outgoing approachable attractive lassie, 33yrs, GSOH, sporty, looking for non serious fun male for friendship, maybe more. Any age/looks/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387101** ♀**CHARLIE** young 37yr old blonde attractive nurse, OHAC, no ties, new to the area and dating scene, looking to find love with genuine available male, 25-42 with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387051** ♀**LAURA** single female 22yrs, blonde, blue eyes, very attractive with curvy figure, WLTM older male for fun times only. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387049** ♀**TASHA** single working mum seeks light hearted man, 35-45 who also likes to enjoy life to the full for passion, romance and tic. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387047** ♀**60YR** old attractive female, seeks non drinker for dog walking, theatre, galleries, photography and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386231****CARIBBEAN** young lady, 30, caring, genuine, seeks young Christian gent, 30-40 who is dedicated to God for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386117** ♀**SUSIE** tactile 33yr old female who loves fast cars and motorbikes, seeks genuine male prepared to live life in the fast lane, 35-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382163** ♀**ANNE** 60, Christian, WLTM similar person. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390496****AFFABLE** serene black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, loves reading nature, theatre, music WLTM genuine caring gent to share laughter/life. London **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411****JACQUELINE** 51, 5ft 8ins, green eyes, Auburn hair, likes theatre, walks, seeks honest, down to earth, sincere fun man for good times, friendship and nights out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387539** ♀**ALICE** 18yr old tall blonde carefree student, looking for exciting male 18-30 for good times only. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387107** ♀**MANDY** 45, 5ft 6ins, attractive, blue/green eyes, trendy, seeks tall, N/S male of similar age with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384555****TRIXI** looking for older respectful gentleman for fun times only. I am bubbly very fun and can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388135****YVONNE** professional 35yr old female looking for someone to relax with, affectionate attractive and looking for same. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388111****SANDY** slim attractive green eyed female, loves romantic walks, animals, WLTM loving caring guy for tactile relationship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388109****CHRISTIAN** lady, seeks Christian man, 58 plus for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386565****JUNE** good looking divorced 40's female, bubbly romantic and looking for tic. Genuine replies only pls. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386301****46YR** old young, curvy single mum, easygoing, caring, GSOH, wants to live and love, seeks honest man, 35-55 for genuine relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387143** ♀**BERYL** 57, likes fishing, home life, seeks gent, 60-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382503****ANNE** romantic lady, 60's, looking for that special someone for LTR, late 50's or 60's with own car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386225** ♀**DEBBIE** 5ft 8ins, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 8ins, slim, 47, likes gym, cinema, bowling, meals out, concerts, single mum, seeks male for friendship, maybe more **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390362****SLIM** tall, elegant, feminine, N/S, solvent lady, young 50's, loves travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, military/professional gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388071****NICOLE** lonely and looking for love, cultured, intelligent, beautiful, creative and looking for sincere male for mature loving ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388145****JACQUELINE** blue eyed attractive petite blonde, fit/active and social looking to meet similar kind male for ltr and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388137****LADY** 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387743****LADY** 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386331****SENSUAL** 32yr old professional with no time to have a relationship, seeks similar understanding male for compatible discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386309****TRACY** 39, fun blue eyed busty blonde, a little dizzy at times but a big bundle of fun, WLTM professional male for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384045****JO** 21yr old single mum who loves nights out, seeks understanding male for adult fun and more. **ACA. Can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384043****48YR** old female, seeks tall, caring male in the West Sussex area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388974****WENDY** cuddly 52yr old romantic, GSOH, N/S, likes reading, cinema, meals out, seeks male, 45-55 with GSOH to be my Knight in shining armour. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389614****DEBBIE** 5ft 8ins, short dark hair/eyes, slim, daughter, easygoing, likes dinner, cinema, bowling, gym, music, travel, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386337****SUE** young looking vivacious female with great sense of humour, OHAC, independent, interesting and sensual, seeking single tactile male. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386275****BECKY** 34 single mum of one, GSOH, employed with OHAC, fun to be with and very loving, WLTM Mr Right if he is out there? **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386305****JENNY** very feminine attractive mature classy female with beautiful blue eyes, looking for male to enjoy plenty of laughs and get to know. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386303****PETITE** French lady, likes to be spoiled/pampered, seeks gent, 40-55 for discreet liaisons. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379579****GWEN** lovely dark haired, dark blue eyed slim sensual female with GSOH, WLTM male 35-50 for fun dates and romantic nights in together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380443****CARMEL** blonde brown eyed girl, employed with OHAC, likes meals out, walking, looking for loving relationship with caring down to earth male. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380001****DEBS** 38 green eyed sophisticated blonde, attractive size 12, not looking for anything long term or steady just fun with intelligent male, 30-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386273****51YR** old lady, seeking fun loving, genuine man for socialising and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389840** ♀**KEELY** blonde 18yr old, blue eyes size 10, busty, stays at home too much and looking for casual fun with older male with OHAC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385377****FEMALE** 48, kind, caring, bubbly, GSOH, likes meals out, pubs, cinema, cooking, seeks male, 40-50 with similar interests for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383787****MARION** 38 slim, sporty, fun with good personality, loves travel, holding hands and caring for people. Seeks genuine male, no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383159** ♀**VAL** compassionate outgoing female with a big heart and no preconceptions just looking for love with similar minded male. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383155** ♀**ATTRACTIVE** lady 45, medium build, fair hair, 5ft 2ins, seeks kind gent for companionship and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383987** ♀**TARA** 5ft 6ft big blue eyed babe with a cute smile looking for older sugar daddy who is not afraid to spend a little to live a lot! Good times always guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381731****NIAMH** slim attractive female, well travelled and body confident, seeking mature male who can handle a real woman. Or at least thinks he can. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384051** ♀**EMMA** pretty 30yr old Scottish lassie, new to the area and looking for some nice company, give me a call and we can take it from there. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385373****LYNDA** very attractive attached female, own transport and willing to travel, seeking similar natured male for extra circular activities. Must be discreet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386563** ♀**KERRY** blonde blue eyed cultured lady, very genuine, caring, seeking caring natured male 45-58 for loving romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386649** ♀**HI** I'm Jane a 40yr old divorcee with 3 children, looking to fall in love again, seeks genuine, confident, very tactile male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386643** ♀**TINA** new to this and a bit nervous, lonely blue eyed 30yr old looking for male companion 30-50yrs. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386625****SARA** 31 tall sexy and single, lovely green eyes, outgoing and social WLTM tall down to earth stable male for poss ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386623** ♀**LISA** blonde hair, blue eyes, medium build, seeks fun loving, adventurous male, 45-52 for friendship, fun and who knows what else. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389020****BECKY** single 29yr old slim female, attractive, blonde, seeking good times with fun male who does not take life too seriously. Status/age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383057****CHRIS** outgoing secretary, enjoys nice wine, romantic meals, looking for easygoing male to get to know and just see what develops. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383055** ♀**KIRSTY** 44yr going on 24yrs, sensual, attractive and in need of spoiling, and attention, seeks likeminded male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383051** ♀**TIA** 38yr old attractive blonde female, likes keep fit, home life, looking for similar genuine romantic for sensual relationship and good friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382081** ♀**WENDY** enjoys most things in life and is up for anything, whatever you fancy? I'm willing to give it a go! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382079** ♀**SARAH** 40's black hair, blue eyes, curvy, outgoing, N/S, likes meals out, cosy nights in, seeking tall, good looking male who loves a laugh. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388626****GEM** 24, slim blonde with blue eyes, single mum of one, broadminded and extremely easygoing, WLTM genuine male for LTR. Dads welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385369****DIANE** single fit female, no children, OHAC, lots of free time, looking for a nice man to get to know and hopefully fall in love with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385351****RUTH** slim funny 18yr old brunette who loves cuddles seeks genuine guy for friendship leading to more. **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385349****MEL** tall curvy attractive blonde, loves cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine, looking for some male attention and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379971****MAVE** young 73yr old widow, attractive, seeks tall, solvent gent, 65-75 to share good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387899****LOOKING** to start the New Year of with a bang? Faye open minded 20yr old female just looking for fun times. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383045****HANNAH** 34 slim petite green eyed single mum with many interest, seeking discreet older male for mutual companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379977****SAM** 35, green eyed voluptuous, busty, loves football, theatre, travel, red wine, WLTM older male up to 65yrs for sensual relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379975****KERRY** 32yr old single mum of one, ready to move on with a new relationship, WLTM genuine male for flirty dates, text fun and more. Pls Call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383901** ♀**JO** discreet 28yr old Auburn haired beauty looking for a bit of fun back in her life, seeks male to make me smile again. Age/looks/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383899** ♀**CAROL** alone on a Saturday night with a bag of chips, what am I doing? Sick of being single and looking for a male who can handle a good woman. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383119****ANN** slim blonde female, lovely blue blue eyes, great personality, outgoing, employed, OHAC, WLTM caring 40's male for adult fun and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382085** ♀

## A N G E L A

**Scottish female, dark hair, green eyes, attractive, new to the area, no ties, OHAC, seeks gentle male for good times and more. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382227****KATIE** pretty slim blonde female, 35, N/S, likes pubs, countryside, meals out, seeking outgoing male for fun times, maybe relationship. Interested? **ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382205****CLARE** petite dark haired attractive female with lots of interests, seeking male for mutual companionship. Must be respectful and discreet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382203****LISA** attractive dental nurse 25, been hurt in the past, looking for romantic male, 35-50yrs for loving friendship, maybe more. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 382201****KATHY** 49, seeking male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389362****48YR** old female, slim, looking for tall Knight in shining armour for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389348****ANGELA** divorced lady, seeking companion to share days out, cinema, meals etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387350**

## Men Seeking

**Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.****Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 (T&C's below)****57YR** old gent, kind, romantic, likes walks, travel, looking for woman, preferably Pompey fan. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388447****MALE** 56, broadminded, passionate, easygoing, seeks lady, 48-65 wanting, passion and exciting friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388417****GENUINE** sincere male, 50, slim, blue eyes, dark hair, fun loving, good company, seeks female to rediscover a full life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385631****MALE** 56, tall, slim, N/S, up for anything, seeks NS female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385045****GOOD** looking fun, friendly, easygoing, sincere male, 46, slim-medium build, hazel eyes, dark hair, nice smile, seeks attractive, caring lady for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385923** ♀**ADE** early 40's, 5ft 10ins, medium build, looking for lady for mutual fun and good times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384495** ♀**TOM** 51, likes keep fit, walks, meals out, seeks female of similar age for fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384169** ♀

## LOVELY

**tall slim nurse, very caring and fun but missing that va-va-voom! Seeks adventurous male who's up for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159** ♀**KAREN** 58, 5ft 6ins, medium build, fun loving, romantic, caring, extrovert, seeks male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387902****TALL** long haired brunette, slim attractive, big green eyes, WLTM gent for mutual companionship, maybe leading to more. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376559****SUE** long blonde haired slim but curvy female, loves to live life to the full, good wine shopping, seeking genuine male 48-60yrs for adult friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 380853****SINGLE** dad, 6ft 1ins, forgotten what life is, help! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390540** ♀**MALE** 5ft 9ins, brown hair, muscular, seeking well spoken Sussex pretty female, under 46, N/S for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390490****STEVE** 48, good looking, single, likes theatre, nights out, history, seeks lady, 35-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390476** ♀**TONY** 5ft 9ins, dark hair, slim-medium build, outgoing, seeks female, 25-40. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390468** ♀**DAVID** 58, professional, slim looking for lady for discreet relationship. East Surrey. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367157****RECLUSIVE** unconventional artist, 57, wishing for sensual, sensitive, mature lady to share quiet but exciting mutual natural pleasures in rural seaside home. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387285****EASYGOING** 60's gent, seeks young at heart 50 something lady to share the good things in life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384081**

## Gay Seeking

**IF YOU'RE LOOKING** to connect and chat with other men look no further TXT: **GAY601 to 65125** for 3 chat matches, fun and safe service. (T&C's below)**Go online - www.localgaydate.co.uk****SMALL** N/S male, early 50's, seeks larger older male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388386****RICHARD** 38, ex model, passive, likes horses, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379097** ♀**BI** guy submissive, late 40's, slim, seeks older dominant guy to yield to. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389256****33YR** old bi male, seeking discreet male of similar age for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389236****Contact members by phone:****0906 515 7112 0906 515 7114 0844 800 1188****Contact members by TEXT!**

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## FOOD & DRINK **Flavours of Kent**

To be included on this page, please email  
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# The Red Lion still roars in a display of culinary pride

It is one of life's more dispiriting experiences... the well-meaning recommendation of the idyllic Kentish country pub that in fact pitches you up at some charmless 1970s box surrounded by new housing estates on the edge of town. Dispiriting and indeed increasingly frequent to the point where you wonder whether such places actually exist. The good news, however, is that they do.

Standing head and shoulders above a sea of mediocrity with, it should be stressed, a select few, is The Red Lion in Stodmarsh. But then it always has, at least for as long as I can remember.

Run for so long and so memorably by the wonderfully eccentric Robert Whigham, who enjoyed his own sliver of television fame on a show devoted to Red Lions across the country, the pub is now in the hands of his daughter Charlotte and her partner Justin Legge.

The chef is Justin's brother Darren, whose work has in recent years graced both The Old Coach And Horses in Harbledown and Riverside Restaurant Bar And Grill in Canterbury.

Justin and Darren's father was Dave Lee, the much-loved comedian who died earlier this year. All in all, you can't help but feel that here, in its way, lies a place at the heart of east Kent.

### RESTAURANT REVIEW



Nevertheless, it is not a place known to the greater masses, most of whom rarely – and perhaps thankfully – stray far from the beaten track... or A road, for that matter. However, those who have chanced upon it join the locals in what can sometimes appear a celebration of simply being somewhere good.

The feel is wholly rustic and, even if the realities of the 21st century beat within us all, here's somewhere whose warm, intimate and welcoming environment takes us back to a place that perhaps many of us feel has been lost in the furore around us.

This is a pub that serves food... good food. Refreshingly, appearances here are not deceptive and I felt completely relaxed in selecting it for a meal with two friends.

Two of us started with duck hash cake with fried egg and brown sauce, which was a sheer delight, while the third of our number enjoyed her crab toasties so much she wondered whether she could have more all over again for her main.

Happily, however, there were more than enough options for her to expand her culinary experience for the evening and she selected smoked-haddock risotto with mussels, which she declared "absolutely delicious".

In what was becoming something of a theme, the third man and I again went down the same path, both choosing belly of pork ("with crackling!") and crab-apple jelly. Flawless.

Pick of the desserts was the bread-and-butter pudding with custard, while the Doom Bar ale matched the excellent food. An overall price of £91 for three could not be faulted, either.

Lovely pub, lovely village, lovely food, lovely beer. All really rather... well, lovely.

**Dave Mairs**

■ The Red Lion, Stodmarsh Road, Stodmarsh, near Canterbury CT3 4BA. Telephone 01227 721339

## Head chef welcomed into his new Abode

THE Old Brewery Tavern in Canterbury has appointed a new head chef.

Anthony Gardiner will lead the team at the restaurant-bar, which is owned by the nearby Abode Hotel, associated with celebrity chef Michael Caines.

Kent-born Gardiner studied catering at Thanet College before working at The Fayrenew Hotel, Kingsgate, and The Royal, Ramsgate. He also took the position of head chef at Eddie Gilbert's seafood restaurant in Ramsgate.

He said: "I was very eager to work with some fantastic chefs in the industry, especially under Michael Caines. I understand the importance of locally-sourced food for the company. The new menu has some amazing dishes."

## Universities wanted for culinary revolution

CATERING boffins are looking for a university to create the first food and drink engineering degree.

Universities across the country are invited to compete to become the UK's centre of excellence for food and drink and help promote the discipline as a distinct profession.

A Food And Drink Federation chief said: "A similar centre of excellence has been successfully created for the UK's dairy sector... however, a uni-based centre for food engineering won't be serving a single sector but setting standards for the entire industry."

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# KENT ATTRACTIONS

## Free Forces family fun Dig and dump

**Diggerland, Strood**  
Saturday, April 21  
0871 2277007  
www.diggerland.com

DIGGERLAND is holding a free day out for Armed Forces personnel and their families when, on Saturday, April 21, the Strood theme park opens its gates to those who have served their country. The event was such a success in 2011 that this year there will be £35,000 worth of free entry tickets given to members of the Forces. Diggerland is the only place where children and adults alike can ride and drive JCB diggers and dumpers. Diggerland will be open from 10am-5pm and Armed Forces Day tickets can be ordered via the website.



Current military photo identification is required when arriving on the day, together with pre-booked tickets, limited to four per family. Diggerland will also be open

to everyone else as normal, with tickets priced at £17 per person; children under 90 centimetres have free entry and tickets for anyone aged 65 and over cost £8.50.



## St George's Day party English celebration

**Riverside Country Park, Gillingham**  
Saturday, April 21  
01634 843666; www.whatsonmedway.co.uk

BUILD sandcastles, dance to big-band sounds and even rub shoulders with Shakespeare at Medway's third annual English Festival. Held on the closest Saturday to St George's Day, the free family day out celebrates all things English and attracts thousands of visitors. Among the attractions will be a specially-created beach complete with deckchairs and donkey rides; Shakespeare's birthday party; Suffolk Punch horses; have-a-go archery; and St George himself, along with his fiery but friendly dragon.

## Fashion accessories brought into focus Summer trending

**McArthurGlen designer outlet, Ashford**  
Saturday, April 21  
01233 895903  
deborah.eastlake@mcarthurglen.com

THE McArthurGlen style consultant, Deborah Eastlake, will be hosting an Accessories Masterclass to show off this summer's hottest designs and trends. Fashion buffs are encouraged to head down to the outlet centre on Saturday, April 21, to find out which items are hot off the 2012 catwalks. "After the whirlwind of Fashion Week, one of the recurring trends that prevailed was to accessorise, accessorise, accessorise!" said Deborah. "As a key trend this summer, it is important to get it right. Over-accessorising can make outfits too gaudy, while under-accessorising can make it fade into the background." The masterclass will take place at 10am at the Style Suite in the southern end of the centre. To book your place, contact Deborah Eastlake on [deborah.eastlake@mcarthurglen.com](mailto:deborah.eastlake@mcarthurglen.com).

## The old ones are the best Eric Knowles

**Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells**  
Sunday, June 3, at 2pm  
01892 530613

ANTIQUES Roadshow star Eric Knowles is one of those rare individuals who is able to share his extensive knowledge with all who listen. With more than 20 years'

working on the BBC show under his belt, Knowles has become the friendly face of what for many years was a business shrouded in mystery. In his new show, Antique Antics, Knowles talks about a business in which he has been immersed for more than 30 years. The first part of the evening is given over to his favourite tales and this is followed by a detailed look at a selection of the audience's treasures, which the star will pick out at the initial meet-and-greet session before the show.



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**It's the future of young jazz Sound of youth**

**Dock Road, Chatham**  
Friday, April 20, at 7.30pm  
01634 365352  
Tickets £10

THE Kent Youth Jazz Orchestra is heading to Chatham alongside guest instrumentalist Pete Long on alto saxophone. The group has made a big name for itself playing an exciting brand of music at concert halls, jazz clubs and open-air festivals all over Kent and beyond. Under musical director Graham Mann, the orchestra guarantees arrangements of jazz standards, fusion and jazz rock that will grab you instantly and have you on your feet demanding more. At this RAF Association Club gig, the team will be joined by alto sax giant Long, who has led his own small groups and big bands, none bigger indeed than Ronnie Scott's Big Band, who he leads regularly at the famous West End jazz club.



**Boogie Nights Add Aswad to Alexander**

**The Orchard, Dartford**  
Saturday, April 28, at 7.30pm  
01322 220000  
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

DONT forget to shine, shine like a star because legendary pop-reggae group Aswad are heading to The Orchard Theatre in Dartford. After 15 albums and two

decades on the music scene, Aswad remain one of Britain's best-loved reggae bands. They are renowned among fans for their rich melodies and especially their major hits On And On, Don't Turn Around and Shine. The group will be on the same bill as soul legend Alexander O'Neal, having had six albums chart both in the UK and the US and spending more than 162 weeks in the Guinness book of albums. It's all part of the Boogie Nights entertainment show, for which tickets are priced at £27.50.



**Let's talk about sexes Lee Hurst is on tour**

**The Gulbenkian, Canterbury**  
Thursday, April 26  
01227 769075  
www.thegulbenkian.co.uk

CHEEKY, chatty and crowd-pleasing comedian Lee Hurst is hitting the road with his first tour in 10 years. Man V Woman is based on a show that Hurst performs in his Bethnal Green comedy club. Audience members get the chance to write down the questions that they've always wanted to ask about each other. In the second half, Hurst will work through these questions, giving everyone the opportunity to finally find out what makes the opposite sex tick. Hurst is best known as one of the stars of BBC One's comedy sports quiz They Think It's All Over, his participation helping it attract more than 12 million viewers.

**Taiko drums See what they bang on about**

**The Orchard, Dartford**  
Wednesday, May 23  
01322 220 000  
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

MUGENKYO Taiko Drummers will head to Dartford next month for a concert of powerful taiko rhythms, huge drums, striking choreography and atmospheric percussion

presented in a dramatic and theatrical stage show. Last year the team thrilled the 40,000-strong audience at London's Proms In The Park as well as producing a collaboration with the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra at the London Jazz Festival. This spring's tour sees the return of New York shinobue player Nobuko Miyazaki. In 2012 the two founders of the group, Neil Mackie and Miyuki Williams, celebrate 20 years since first travelling to Japan and starting on their taiko path. Tickets are priced at £20.50.



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### First **GEAR** MOTORING NEWS

- Toyota ups the hybrid ante with larger Prius
- Skoda launches new ultra-eco city car Citigo
- Jaguar continues its dynasty with the F-Type



Mercedes to take on the '4x4 posers' with stylish M-Class

# Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Sam Davison  
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AFTER some years in the creative doldrums, nobody could say that Citroën isn't now back to its maverick best.

We've had the C5 attack German premium marques with its teutonic styling, the DS3 take a pop at BMW's lucrative Mini sales, and there's even a C6 luxury model evoking memories of the original DS series from 1955-75 – it isn't a great seller but has focused attention on the brand.

And now we have the latest new-age DS, taking on premium SUVs like the Audi Q3 and BMW X1 and X3 – what will the French marque have a go at next?

Even then it's not easy to define the new DS5, since it looks a different car from all angles: it's tall, but it's long – and yet it's shorter than you think.

The bit we can nail down is that it costs from £22,400, ranging up to £32,200 for the flagship DSport spec with Hybrid4 powertrain – counterpart to sister brand Peugeot's 3008 Hybrid4 that's also just hit the market.

The hybrid format (from £27,600) brings the DS5 into conflict with all-wheel drive SUVs by virtue of the electric power to rear wheels – the front ones are powered conventionally by the car's 163bhp 2.0-litre diesel engine.

Citroën obviously fancies winding up the Germans again by appealing particularly to image-conscious company car user choosers who also have an eye on their tax bill.

They will note that the Hybrid4's dual powertrain can combine to deliver sparkling performance and traction, while CO2 emissions below 100g/km exempt it from both road tax and the London Congestion Charge, while business users pay a Benefit-in-Kind tax rate of just 10 per cent.

On the other hand, there are some good powertrains to choose from the cheaper models: the powerful and smooth 200bhp THP petrol unit developed jointly by Peugeot-Citroën and BMW, plus two diesel options.

And while the eye-catching exterior might, nevertheless, divide opinion you can be sure that few people will dislike the luxurious aviation-inspired cabin.

This adaptable five-door also has five full-size seats and up to 465 litres of boot space, with hi-tech goodies such as keyless access and start, a colour head-up display and a new Lane Departure Warning System (LDWS) for when the driver gets sleepy on long journeys – a potential life-rt-saver.

Perhaps not surprisingly for such an innovative car, the DS5 had already picked up several awards ahead of launch, including Top Gear magazine's Family Car of the Year award.

It also secured the maximum five-star Euro NCAP crash test rating and Citroën expects the car to appeal most to men over 35 who are "typically energetic business leaders – sophisticated, style conscious and early adopters of new technologies."



CITROËN DS5

- Price: £22,400-£32,200
- Driving appeal: To be tested
- Image: ★★★★★
- Space: ★★★★★
- Value: ★★★★★
- Running costs: ★★★★★
- Reliability: ★★★★★
- How green?: ★★★★★
- Best rival: Nissan Qashqui

## Flight of fancy as aviation style takes off with latest Citroën DS



**MAKING ITS MARQUE:** Citroën's new DS5 continues the French car-maker's turnaround with stylish-looking cars that are now making a real impact in the motoring industry

/// DON'T LIKE ///

... after some years in the creative doldrums, nobody could say that Citroën isn't now back to its maverick best.

/// NOT SURE ///

... the car will retain its value on the used market. It might be a premium car, but Citroën is not perceived as a premium brand.

/// REALLY LIKE ///

... the DS5's defiance of categorisation. It does so with real style and class, unlike Renault's ill-fated Avantime and Vel Satis of the Noughties.



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11 11 1.2 TSi (86ps) Elegance 5dr Cappuccino	13,787 miles	£9,500
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11 11 1.6 TDi (75ps) SE Plus 5dr Aqua Blue	10,973 miles	£10,500
11 11 1.6 TDi (105ps) SE 5dr Estate Cappuccino	15,914 miles	£10,797
11 61 1.6 TDi (90ps) SE Plus 5dr Hatch Anthracite Grey		£10,837
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07 07 1.9 TDi (105bhp) Elegance 5dr Hatch Diamond Silver	72,462 miles	£7,000
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## MOTORING

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# Three-door Veloster opens new door for coupé buyers

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HYUNDAI left the coupé sector in 2009, after a series of models, latterly delivering style plus fun, to go with the marque's familiar value.

However, with the Korean brand now riding high in the UK public eye through acclaimed mainstream 'i' models, like the newly-launched second generation i30, it was perhaps natural that Hyundai would revisit the glamour of the coupé sector.

It has done so by, typically, trying to offer more for your money than perceived rivals like the racy VW Scirocco or three-door coupé versions of standard hatchbacks such as the eye-catching Vauxhall Astra GTC.

With the Veloster (from £17,995), you get looks as arresting as the VW and Vauxhall, plus an extra side door, and the usual Hyundai value for money, high specification and five-year unlimited mileage warranty.

That additional door – kerbside for rear passengers – could be a winner for some buyers with young children, who might want a racy motor, but don't want the hassle of tipping front seats or leaning right into the back to belt up their kids.

It's also a unique proposition on the UK market; the only rival is the Mini Clubman, which also has a single rear side door, but on the wrong side – who wants their children exiting on the opposite side to the pavement?

The Veloster's extra door is nicely integrated into the car's profile and, since you never view both sides together, you'll never spot the difference anyway – though the curious will note that the rear side windows and centre pillars are different.

The overall style of the car is low slung with a particularly rakish rear roofline that, as in any coupé, compromises rear headroom, while legroom is also fairly tight.

Still, there is a decent size boot and ultimate

HYUNDAI VELOSTER 1.6GDI DCT: PRICE £19,245

## FACT FILE



Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★
Value:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★
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Hyundai:	
Tunbridge Wells	01892 520026

## AN ADDED

**BONUS:** The Veloster's additional door will appeal to those buyers who might want a racy car but don't want the hassle of tipping front seats or leaning into the back to strap in their children

load area with seats folded and the Veloster has much else to recommend inside too; the brand continues its seemingly unstoppable rise in interior quality and design, although it would be nice to see some real brushed alloy highlights rather than coloured plastic versions.

The big standard fit central information/entertainment screen is well thought out and the dashboard controls are logical and nicely to hand, so the car offers coupé-style without great compromises in practicality – many canny buyers will like that a lot, in conjunction with a tempting price and that Hyundai warranty.

You also get lots for your money: our entry level 1.6 GDi model comes with alloys, rear spoiler, tyre pressure monitoring, eco drive indicator, reversing sensors and more that you wouldn't expect.

Where the car does have a problem is with its name: Veloster implies, well, velocity and this car

has none of the coupé variety in its present format.

A 138bhp 1.6-litre petrol unit is the sole engine choice – for now, I hope – and it doesn't really help the car live up to its moniker.

Our test car also happened to be the six-speed DCT auto version, which is slightly slower too though fuel economy is better than the standard six-speed manual car.

By comparison, the Scirocco and Astra GTC line-ups include lively small turbocharged petrol units that deliver the performance to go with styling, and that's just what the Veloster lacks currently.

The good news is the Veloster's chassis has the potential to take the extra power; it keeps its composure and a flat stance on corners and only the lifeless steering detracts from a decent drive.

That said, many buyers won't worry about any of this when coupé looks can be had with such a practical bonus as that third side door.

## First GEAR

## MOTORING NEWS



## Prius larging it across Europe

TOYOTA aims to step up the competition in the hybrid race by launching the first full hybrid seven-seat MPV seen in Europe.

It will do so by extending the successful Prius petrol-electric hybrid brand; the newcomer is called the Prius+ is available to order now, with deliveries starting in July.

Prices start from £26,195 and the key version will be road tax exempt.



## Citigo means 'green' for go

SKODA says its all-new ultra-economical Citigo city car is on sale from Friday, June 1, priced from £7,630.

Based on the Up model produced by parent brand VW, the Czech version is more keenly priced to uphold Skoda's status as a value champion.

With a maximum five-star crash safety rating from Euro NCAP, it is also available as a three or five-door.



## Jag confirms baby roadster

JAGUAR has confirmed its stunning C-X16 two-seater concept will be turned into a production model, due out in mid-2013.

As the F-Type – slightly disguised in the picture here – it will finally advance a sports car dynasty made famous by the 1960s vintage E-Type roadster and coupé.

Like its predecessor, the F-Type will launch as a two-seat convertible.



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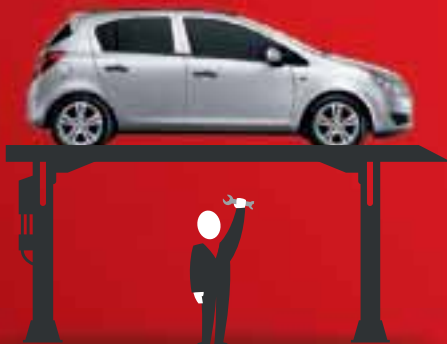
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## Sport

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## CRICKET

# Computer geek Charlie Shreck predicts talented Kent side will show real byte

By Greg Miles

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WHEN a cricketer openly admits to enjoying tampering and fiddling, it usually spells the end of their career, especially for a bowler.

But for Kent seamer Charlie Shreck, that might well be his future.

The 6ft 7inch right armer is a dab hand when it comes to computers much to the amusement of his new team mates, that is until they need a bit of help.

"I'm a bit of a computer geek," confessed the former Notts player. "I like tampering and fiddling with them."

"A lot of the guys take the mickey out of me for it, until they need some help that is."

"Maybe once I have stopped playing cricket it might be an option, I've not really considered that yet though."

As he says, his immediate future is with Kent for whom he led the attack at Headingley against Yorkshire last week with figures of 6 for 112.

It's his second spell at the St Lawrence Ground following three days he spent with Kent last summer in a loan move.

But now he is back for good, and is relishing the chance to take Kent back to the top flight.

"I only played one game before, so I was shipped in and shipped out," he said.

"I wasn't really around long enough to make an impression, it was three-and-a-bit days and

I was away again. If I can say at the end of the season that we were pushing for honours then that's my target really," he said.

For now though he, like the rest of the squad are still getting to know one another after a number of arrivals including Ben Harmison, Mark Davies, Brendan Nash, Mike Powell, and new coach Jimmy Adams.

"Because there are so many new players we are all finding out different things," he said.

"It's like we have gone to a new school with all the new people joining at the same time and we have got a crew going, it's an exciting time."

"Because it's something we are all facing together, there is a bit of unity."

"It's a diverse dressing room, we've got players from Durham, some from Wales, and a few Kent guys, we have to learn the

different languages. It's a fun place to be."

"It's new and refreshing to have Jimmy Adams and the different ways of putting things."

It was a solid start from the 34-year-old, as he formed what looks to be an exciting partnership with Davies.

"I think we batted very well," he said. "If we play like that every game we will be okay."

"Mark Davies was excellent in the first innings, so the rest of us can probably hold our hands up and say we didn't back him up."

There was also an encouraging performance from youngster Matt Coles who scored his maiden century.

"He's got a lot of talent," said Shreck. "He had a winter on the performance programme, and he's got a new confidence."

"It's nice to have such a young talent there ready to be able to jump in."

Joining Kent was an opportunity Shreck couldn't turn down as he looked to get his career back on track after a frustrating period on the sidelines.

"I have had various injuries over the last two years that have hindered my playing time," he said.

"I would like to play for as long as I can if my body can hold out."

"When you get to my age you take every year as it comes, and if it has to end, it has to end."

"I have to be realistic and honest with myself, and hope my body is back."

6699

**I'm a bit of a computer geek. A lot of the guys take the mickey out of me for it, until they need some help that is.**

KCCC BOWLER, CHARLIE SHRECK



Picture: ADY KERRY

CONFIDENT: Fast bowler Charlie Shreck is enjoying getting to know his new Kent team mates

## Young all-rounder Coles is ready to learn Jimmy Adams' great theories

HAVING a theory is all well and good in any walk of life, but in cricket, if that theory is from Jimmy Adams then you can bet it will work.

That's the view of young Kent star Matt Coles who has wholeheartedly endorsed the ideas being brought to the table by his new coach.

The 21-year-old, who made his debut in 2009, notched his maiden century in a club record ninth-wicket stand of 153 with debutant Mark Davies in the draw against Yorkshire at Headingley last week.

"With Jimmy as a coach it makes things a lot easier, because he's a brilliant coach," he said.

"His theories are coming to the table, and they are definitely working on us all."

"Everybody really respects him and I think it was a great choice for the county and for us moving forward as a group."

"We have got to keep building on what we have been working on over the pre-season, and the results will come."

The work clearly paid off for Coles as he made short work of the Yorkshire bowling to reach his ton.

"It was brilliant, I was over the Moon," he said. "I was a bit upset that we didn't quite get the win, to top it off."

"If we had taken a couple of chances it might have been a different game."

It has given him the confidence to finally label himself as an all-rounder, having thought about it for a few years.

"I have been umming and ahing for the last few years, I have always felt I can do well with the bat, but just never really put it into action," he said.

"Now after scoring 100 last week I feel I should step up to the plate. I'm hoping that's the first of a lot more."

As well as the new label, and new theories, there have been new personalities in the dressing room at the club which haven't come quietly.

"The new lads coming in are all different, they have a bit of a laugh in the changing room," he said.

"It's definitely improved us from being a quiet county to now being a bit more noisy."

The final few threads are coming together, and everybody is in game mode now."

Coles singled out new boy Matt Powell who joined from Glamorgan as one of the big characters who has come into the side this season.

"It's because of his general chat about everything really," he said.

"He's very entertaining to listen to, especially in his Welsh accent."



Picture: ADY KERRY

ON BOARD: Matt Coles says Jimmy Adams' ideas will bring victory

## Sport

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## MOTORSPORT

# Doran claims podium spot despite plenty of bad luck

By Greg Miles

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SITTINGBOURNE'S Liam Doran came through an eventful qualifying to claim his place on the podium at the Monster Energy International Rallycross Festival at Lydden Hill Race Circuit.

Doran who was driving in his new Citroen DS3 won the B final, and then claimed third place in the A final having been beaten by American Tanner Foust, and Norwegian Mats Lysen in the event which formed the first round of the 2012 FIA European Championship for rallycross drivers.

Doran appeared to encounter every possible problem in the qualifying heats and started from third place on the B final grid.

"To achieve that from the back feels better than a win. As a driver there's more satisfaction in racing, passing people and getting a result than the win just dropping in your lap," he said.

"After the heats I thought I was going home. I was quite lucky to qualify for the B final.

"How often can you spin in two heats and stall in the other, qualify in the B final and then get onto the podium? I'm really happy but other people don't understand why because they haven't seen the dramas we've gone through.

"And I've kept the car in one piece, which on recent outings hasn't always been a nailed-on guarantee.

"In the final I kept my head cool and just drove round and got the result. I'm really happy because if nothing else the rest of the supercar guys are going to go away from here thinking



**IN CONTROL:** Liam Doran celebrates third place at Lydden Hill after an eventful time on the Kent circuit

'Oh my God, we've got a problem now'.

"This is the first race with this car, a whole new team working together for the first time and the first time we've run the Citroën DS3 in the wet. So to come here and that be fast – we had the fastest single lap in every heat – is pretty amazing, without the issues we had in the qualifying races it would have been a doddle."

He paid tribute to his team for producing a

great car: "The team have got this result, the engine is as strong as hell and the chassis is great. I've just got to drive it round.

"The championship is going to be hugely competitive this year, you can see that from the results here, but I feel much more confident than I did at this stage last year."

The second round of the championship takes place in France on April 28-29.

## FOOTBALL

## Relegation decider looms for Sittingbourne in tough game

FEARS of the drop could be eased at Sittingbourne FC this weekend if the Brickies pick up points in their Kent derby against Folkestone Invicta.

Joe Dowley's side sit third from bottom in the Ryman One South, but he is confident they will beat the drop as they are six points clear of the bottom two Burgess Hill Town and Whyteleafe.

There is just one relegation spot to fill this season after Croydon were liquidated earlier in the year.

"We are six points clear with three games to go," he said.

"If we can get a result this weekend it puts us nine clear of the danger zone.

"The other two teams have got tough games, we should be okay.

"It will be a tough game, they are always good games against Folkestone.

"They are a strong side, they have got a couple of talented forwards who are on form.

"There is no reason why we can't go there and get a result."

Sittingbourne won the reverse fixture at the Central Park Complex with a 2-0 win thanks to a brace



**HIT:** Dowley in his playing days

from Joe Goldsmith. One change will need to be made to the side as captain Johnathon Hogg is missing because of a long-standing personal commitment.

Their remaining two fixtures see them host Godalming Town, before the last game of the season away to Walton & Hersham.

## FOOTBALL

## Bragging rights to be won in derby clash for safe duo

DESPITE Faversham and Whitstable sitting safely in midtable there is still plenty to play for as the two sides meet in the Ryman One South tomorrow.

Faversham boss Ray Turner is keen for his players to go out and express themselves in the Kent derby fixture, and doesn't want the players to show any drop in drive as the season comes to a close.

"It's a good fixture for us," he said. "I'm hoping we can get a few people into the game.

"Both sides are sitting midtable, so I'm hoping both sets players can express themselves.

"It's down to the players and myself to try to finish as strong as we can. We are 16 points clear of relegation but well clear of the play-offs.

"It's important that the players have got that drive.

"It has got to be a fully committed performance."

He said there will be a restructuring of the club next season with the introduction of a number of new youth teams which will then help feed the first team with young talent.



**BOSS MAN:** Faversham Ray Turner

Turner's team are 15th in the table ahead of the clash at the Shepherd Neame Stadium tomorrow, and are just three points above the visitors.

They will no doubt face a tougher test when they travel to championship contenders Dulwich Hamlet the following week, before their last game of the season at home to Corinthian Casuals.

## NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL FOCUS

WITH FRED ATKINS

## Lack of FA Cup isn't a problem

KENT hasn't had an FA Cup finalist since the Royal Engineers in 1878, it's never had a top flight professional team unless you count Woolwich Arsenal before 1913, and in nearly a century since it's never had more than two clubs in the Football League, where Gillingham have been the sole representatives for the past 21 years.

There is one area however, where Kent at least punches its weight.

Of the 266 clubs who started this season in the national non-league system (above the Step Five level where county leagues operate), 13 are from Kent. If you cheat a bit and include Welling, Bromley and Cray that accounts for nearly six per cent of the total – not bad for a county which has three per cent of England's population.

What's unusual is how seldom any of these clubs have come to even challenging for a place in the Football League – and with it Gillingham's almost unbroken reign as Kent's top side.

In the 92 years since Gillingham were elected as founder members of Division Three South, they've been the highest-ranked Kent side in the football pyramid in every season bar one.

1989-90, when Gillingham came 14th in Division Four of the Football League and Maidstone United finished fifth, remains the only time Gillingham have been dethroned by another Kent side, although very occasionally another team has challenged.

Gillingham dropped back into the Southern League for a few years either side of World War Two and in 1949-50, to date their last season as a non-league team, they finished fifth, with Dartford sixth and Gravesend & Northfleet seventh.

Gillingham's dominance has otherwise been remarkably consistent. Since Maidstone's fleeting reign – which came at a ruinous financial cost – Dover, Ebbsfleet and Margate have all been in the Conference, without ever seriously threatening to get into the Football League.

Gillingham did once nearly drop out of it in 1993-94, when Dover were eighth in the Conference, but since then the gap has widened.

Although Sussex now has a second Football League side in Crawley, it's unlikely they'll challenge Brighton in the short or long term, while Norwich and Ipswich have no serious competition in Norfolk and Suffolk respectively.

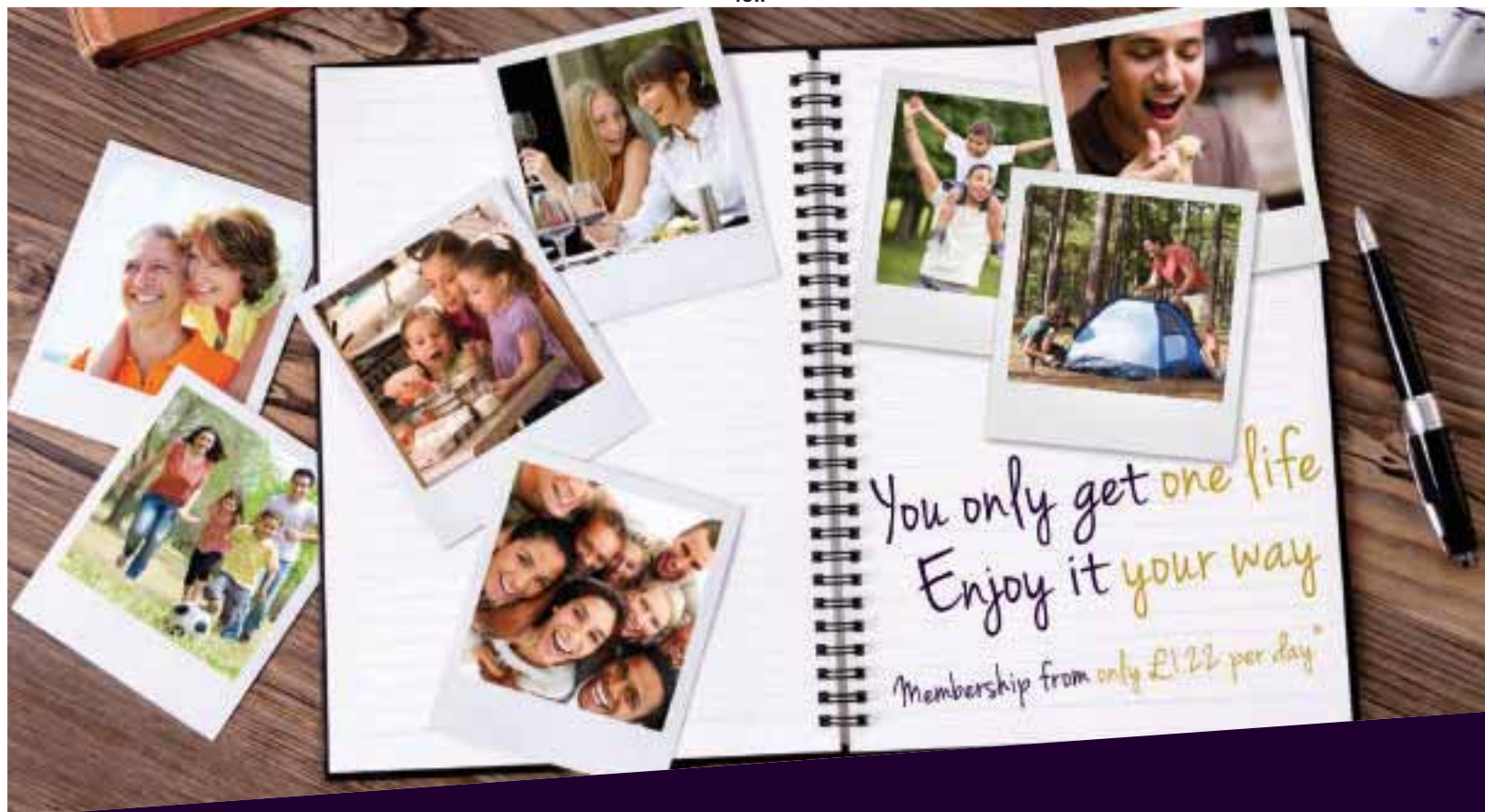
Even in places like Northampton and Lincoln someone like Rushden or Boston occasionally comes along for a few seasons.

It would only take a bad year at Priestfield and they might be in the same division as Ebbsfleet, but it's felt Gillingham are untouchable for at least another 10 years.

Andy Hessenthaler also felt Ebbsfleet's financial situation would hold them back and rated Dartford as biggest short-term threat due to their fan base and facilities. He also felt Maidstone might return.







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